



## Collectable art

China's contemporary art may be setting records at world auctions, but those high prices are only dragging it further away from the mainstream.

A handful of art shops hope to reverse this trend and return art to the public. *Beijing Today's* art editors list some of the best in town for your holiday shopping.

Read more on Page 16



### Pages 12-13 Tosca comes to town

The NCPA is inviting the most sought after Italian opera director to interpret Puccini for its stage.



### Page 15 Private radio stations

These online broadcasters hope to introduce China to the music that mainstream commercial stations forbid.



Bodyguards  
leave behind  
gray past

Page 4

NGO groups  
may offer  
better rescue

Page 5

Dog-lovers  
bare fangs at  
meat truckers

Page 7

High-brow  
mag talks  
rural issues

Page 10

# Gov to expand aid to island nations



The vice minister of commerce says China is giving priority to low-income, developing countries.

CFP Photo

By Li Zhixin

China is expanding its grant aid to developing countries, especially island nations, said Fu Ziyang, the vice minister of commerce, on Tuesday at the release of his ministry first Foreign Aid whitepaper.

By the start of 2010, China had provided 256 billion yuan in aid to foreign countries, including 106 billion yuan in grants, 76.5 billion yuan in interest-free loans and 73.6 billion yuan in concessional loans.

Fu said China will promote regional and sub-regional cooperation and allocate its foreign aid resources using platforms such as the China-Africa Cooperation Forum.

According to the whitepaper, China provides foreign aid through complete projects,

goods and materials, technical cooperation, human resource development cooperation, medical teams sent abroad, emergency humanitarian aid, volunteer programs in foreign countries and debt relief.

Complete projects accounted for 40 percent of China's foreign aid expenditures during the past 60 years.

By the end of 2009, China had helped developing countries construct and complete more than 2,000 projects in industry, agriculture, education, health-care, communications, energy and transportation.

It also provided 4,000 training sessions in economics, diplomacy, agriculture, healthcare and environmental protection to 120,000 people. "At present, about 10,000 people from devel-

oping countries receive training in China every year," Fu said.

Chinese medical teams have been deployed to 69 countries on five continents with more than 21,000 medical workers participated in these missions. Their efforts have treated 260 million patients. China also sent 7,600 Chinese-language teachers to 70 countries around the world.

It has signed debt relief protocols with 50 countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania, canceling 380 mature debts that would have been worth 25.9 billion yuan.

Fu said China gives priority to low-income, developing countries. The country's projects mainly focus on livelihood and economic issues, providing agriculture, education and health

infrastructure.

"The purpose of China's foreign aid is to help recipient countries enhance their capacity for independent development," he said.

The government does not attach political conditions to its foreign aid and always adheres to the basic principle of equality, mutual benefit and common development, he said.

Although China is the world's second largest economy, its per capita income still ranks 100th. More than 100 million people in China are still trapped in poverty.

"China will continue to do its utmost to promote cooperation with other developing nations and will gradually increase its aid to countries facing economic difficulties as it is able," Fu said.

## 2010 a turning point in intellectual property crusade

By Li Zhixin

2010 was a watershed for intellectual property in China.

According to statistics from the State Council Information Office (SIPO), more than 1.2 million patent applications were filed, 239,000 of which were domestic patents. The Trademark Office under the State Administration for Industry and Commerce also reported 1.8 million new registered trademarks.

The news was part of a celebratory announcement by Tian Lipu, director of SIPO, in observance of World Intellectual Property Day, which fell on Tuesday this week.

"By the end of 2010, the number of total registered trademarks in China ranked first in the world," he said.

More than 60 media groups from home and abroad visited the nation's Copyright Protection Center of China and State Grid Corporation of China to learn more about what China is doing to protect intellectual property.

During 2010, the Public Security Bureau investigated more than 2,000 cases of intellectual property infringement involving 2.3 billion yuan. Some 4,000 people were found guilty, and 930 were arrested. Police shut down 916 counterfeit production facilities and destroyed 417 of their marketing groups.

Tian said that in addition to the legislative and judicial actions, the nation has been working to implement a more comprehensive intellectual property strategy.

"The goal to get people using legally licensed software at national-level government offices is expected to be complete this month. We will push the changes out to provincial and municipal offices by the end of October," he said.

Central state offices spent 41.4 million yuan purchasing 53,915 copies of authorized operating system software, office software and antivirus software between October 2010 and February 10.

## Drivers to face organ donor form

By Han Manman

New drivers obtaining their license will soon have to fill out a form to state whether they are willing to be organ donors in the event of a fatal accident. The requirement is one of the government's latest attempts to bolster a dwindling organ supply.

Vice Minister of Health Huang Jiefu said the procedure, expected to start before the end of the year, will streamline the donor registration system and expand the pool of available organs.

As many as 1.5 million people in China need organ transplants each year: only 10,000 can get one.

Yet 100,000 people are killed every year in traffic accidents, and many of them have healthy, usable organs, Huang said.

"Everyone has the right to choose whether or not to donate his organs. It's not dishonorable if you refuse to opt-in," he said.

The nation is also considering financial incentives to encourage voluntary donation, among which would be reduced medical costs, funeral expenses, and medical insurance and tuition waivers for the deceased's family, Huang said.

Responses to the plan have been mixed.

Yang Junyi, a spokesman for the Shanghai Red Cross,

criticized the government for copying the West and disrespecting Chinese traditions. It is a custom that bodies be burned or buried whole.

"Most Chinese people will see this as some twisted curse being forced on them while applying for a driver's license," Yang said.

He said the Red Cross conducted research into similar options many years ago when distributing pamphlets to local driving schools.

"Only two or three forms ever came back, and most people cursed us for even handing them such a form, saying it was bad luck," he said. "It

will be ages before Chinese people are ever brought around to accepting this kind of donation format."

Yang's cold reception was echoed by many on the Internet such as Wang Zhifeng, a local IT worker.

"The form itself may bring me misfortune. If I sign it, I may die from a car accident," Wang said, "The feeling of having to go through this is terrible!"

Some, such as local Beijinger Xu Chun, supported the move.

Xu said it is common in many countries to supply driving license applicants with the necessary papers for organ donation.

She said 80 percent of Australians register as organ donors when getting a license. In the UK, 45 percent of drivers are registered donors.

"It's time for the Chinese to get over their traditions and really do something to save more people's lives," Xu said, adding she will sign the form when she applies for a driver's license.

China banned organ transplants from living donors, except spouses, blood relatives and adopted family members, in 2007. The first national organ tracking system began in 2009.

The shortage continues to drive a thriving trade in black market organs.



# Seriously ill children untreated due to absence of support

By *Chu Meng*

Children suffering from acute aplastic anemia, a disease which causes a deficiency in both red and white blood cells and platelets, have nowhere to turn to for help.

That was the message from Wang Zhenyao, an official at the Ministry of Civil Affairs, who said Monday that neither a relief program nor support for one exists.

Wang's words followed the March 31 kidnapping of a Red Cross Foundation employee by the father of an 11-year-old boy with the disease.

As of press time, Sun Wenhui, the father, remains under detention at the Beijing Dongcheng Public Security Bureau. His son, Sun Xiaofeng (pseudonym), has been transferred from the General Hospital of Beijing Military Region to the Central Hospital of Cangzhou, his home city in Hebei Province.

Though Liu Wenhui, Sun's wife, has received 4 million yuan in donations since media began reporting her story and the Cangzhou hospital has pledged to reduce its treatment costs, long-term management of this disease remains impossible for the family of farmers.

The Red Cross Fund's most closely associated project is the Small Angel Fund, a relief fund created for Chinese children with leukemia in 2005.

The fund has had a rocky history. Its first rescue case almost



Sun Wenhui regrets abducting a Red Cross worker.

IC Photo

bled it dry, and in the end the child still perished. However, it continues to provide some relief to children with leukemia.

But while Sun Xiaofeng suffers from a similar blood disorder, his disease is not classified as leukemia, making him ineligible for the fund's support.

As formal director general of the department of social wel-

fare and charity promotion under the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Wang's current title is director of the One Foundation Philanthropy Research Institute, initially founded by Chinese Kung Fu star Jet Li.

"When it comes to welfare funds for severely ill children, the government should clearly be playing a leading role. NGOs

are there only to supplement this effort," he said.

He said it is the government's responsibility to establish a nationwide relief mechanism and insurance system. "It's not something that should be hard to do, and the initial investment does not need to be that large. As little as 300 billion yuan would be enough for a complete relief net-

work for seriously ill children," he said.

He made a passing mention to insuring children with acute aplastic anemia.

That such a support network would be extremely costly is a serious misunderstanding, he said. In 2005, the Ministry of Health estimated that there were 200 million children suffering from leukemia. The actual investigation conducted by the ministry last year revealed that number to be only 6 million to 7 million – 32 times fewer than initially estimated.

"This means the potential cost of such a network has dropped dramatically from our estimates. Accurate survey data makes a government relief effort for serious illnesses like leukemia and acute aplastic anemia much more feasible," he said.

As of the end of 2010, children's leukemia and congenital heart disease were covered by the New Rural Medical Cooperative Assistance System. But many serious diseases remain overlooked.

"If the country's 300 million children is insured by the government paying 50 yuan and the family paying another 50 yuan, we can easily collect 30 billion yuan for a fund every year. We can also take advantage of medical insurance, charity lottery payments and other social channels. Money should not be the biggest problem," he said.

## US to bring cowboy culture to Beijing

By *Han Manman*

The first eight-day American rodeo is being held in Beijing as part of a US effort to enhance international cooperation and encourage private-sector groups to share the country's culture with China.

Rodeo China will begin October 3 at Beijing National Stadium with bull riding, country music, dancing and rodeo culture.

"We hope to give the Chinese a taste of America's oldest sport and help them learn about our cowboy culture, which is still underrepresented in China," said Richard Tucker, president of Rodeo China, at the launch ceremony on Monday.

He said the event will bring more than 150 horses, bulls and livestock to China, where 105 contestants – including the world's Top 5 rodeo champs – will compete for a prize purse valued at \$8 million (\$2 million yuan).

Earlier this month, State Councilor Liu Yandong and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged in Washington to deepen exchange and enhance cultural ties between the two countries. Rodeo China is the first exchange to come out of this agreement.

Thomas F. Skipper, minister-

counselor for public affairs at the US embassy in Beijing, said the Tuckers have a proud rodeo past and a history with China reaching back to the 1980s.

Skipper said the Tucker couple first told him their idea for Rodeo China last fall. He initially thought the idea was crazy because it would involve hundreds of thousands of people and hundreds of animals.

"Many Americans hope to start cultural exchange programs in China, but few appreciate how hard it is to arrange even a small program in a country that is so vastly removed from these traditions," Skipper said.

In retrospect, he said he underestimated the Tuckers' determination.

"I'm now so excited about this unique cultural exchange. I think a rodeo event is the best way to capture American culture and the American spirit," Skipper said.

October's rodeo show kicks off what will be a five-year cultural and educational program in China, with similar events to be held in other cities.

Tucker said the five-year program includes funding American exchange students to study Chinese language and cul-



US rodeo culture is underrepresented in China.

Photo provided by Richard Tucker

ture, and hosting workshops to teach China about rodeo culture and cowboys.

He said plans also include

paying American experts to train Chinese farmers in better agricultural techniques and to teach rural children.

"I don't have children," Richard said. "I've been very lucky in life. I earned lots of money. I want to give it back."

"I want to see rural children have an opportunity for better education and better schools. Then they can be happy on the farms and in their lives as cowboys and cowgirls," he said.

He also has plans to establish a new rodeo school and Chinese Rodeo Association during the next few years.

Referring to himself as an old cowboy who started riding at 9, Tucker said he hopes rural children can have more time to study and work with animals, and to learn new farming techniques at the rodeo school.

But the October event will not be China's first encounter with rodeo.

In 1979, on his state visit to the US, the then Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping visited the Simonton Rodeo in Texas, where he rode in a stagecoach and was presented with a cowboy hat and duster.

The year marked the establishment of diplomatic relations between Beijing and Washington. Many believe Deng's rodeo visit showed the convergence of Chinese and American ties.

# New name brings honor to bodyguards

## From thug to advisor

Jiang Song (pseudonym), a 36-year-old private bodyguard, had long been distressed by his career choice.

The once constant bodyguard of central government leaders left for work with a private security firm in Guangzhou after retiring from the Safeguard Bureau of the Communist Party of China in 2004.

It was a move that proved dangerous. The thriving industry walks a legal tightrope due to a law pushed through by the Ministry of Public Security to prohibit security firms from providing private bodyguards. The law, passed in 2000, was intended to prevent the formation of mafia-like gangs that would use bodyguard muscle to extort their "clients."

It was not passed without reason. Jiang recalls one coworker, Zhang Tao, who was almost killed when a boss decided to make him brawl with a rival boss's bodyguard for their own amusement.

"Without boxing gloves or any other protective measures, he was thrust into a five-round bare knuckle fistfight that left him with multiple fractures and acute paralysis that persisted for several months," Jiang said.

"Since then, I don't like people referring to me as a bodyguard. The word just rings too violent and rude."

Jiang left the firm in 2008 to find other work in Beijing, but he returned to the profession shortly after the Olympic Games.

"We saw a lot of hatchet men working as 'bodyguards' before 2005, but I think the industry is slowly starting to self-regulate," said Chen Yongqing, president of Tianjiao Special Safeguard Company, which is regarded as the bellwether of the industry.

Many bodyguards have limited education and no legal experience, which earned the industry an infamous reputation. "If the employer was willing to pay, these guys would do anything — laws be damned," he said.

But increasing demand for bodyguards roused the government's attention.

"It was Last February that Ministry of Public Security put out a notice that the industry would be supervised by the government. That means the industry has become a legal profession," he said.

That official recognition brought bodyguards a transformation of sorts. "We now have a more professional title: private security advisor," Jiang said. "Fighting skills are a basic requirement — not the most important part of the job. A good bodyguard knows how to help his client avoid risk, not simply attack a risk head-on."

"It's much more honorable to be seen in an industry where the men are required to have a developed mind as well as a developed body," he said.



The security industry has developed fast in the last decade.

Photos provided by Chen Yongqing

## Only for defense

Bodyguards are mainly recruited from the military, elite kung fu academies and several sports schools.

New hires go through rigorous training in free combat, grappling, shooting and scouting. They must also study relevant laws, professional ethics, driving, business etiquette, foreign languages and clerical work.

Bodyguards are still prohibited from carrying firearms. They are only allowed to provide defensive services and never to work as hired goons. They are required to inform employers of what tasks they will accept and to what extent they will carry out the mission.

"Our ultimate purpose is to prevent criminal assault of the person or object we are hired to protect," said Chen, who built a training

school last year to train future professional security advisors.

In the industry, most people look down on bodyguards who have to use violence to complete their mission, he said.

Unlike the bodyguards shown in movies that work alone, in real life, personal security is a team job. "Knowing how to obey orders is the first step in this job," he said. Employees can't contradict their employers or retaliate, and are required to protect secrets like their employer's work schedule, individual privacy and personal information.

Women bodyguards must be especially careful in creating boundaries in their relationship with male employers. "If the business relationship is too distant, they cannot be effective in their job. But getting



too close to a boss may arouse suspicion," he said.

Although one might expect the industry to be a male-dominated field, Chen said female bodyguards are very common.

"Women bodyguards have an easier time hiding their identity than males, and many employers

don't want others to know they have hired a bodyguard. On many occasions, a female bodyguard presents herself as the employer's secretary while on a mission," he said.

He said female bodyguards can earn 300,000 yuan per year — most male bodyguards earn no more than 200,000 yuan.

## Room to grow



Bodyguards are not allowed to carry firearms.

The current demand for private bodyguards comes from private entrepreneurs, movie stars and senior exhibition enterprises.

Since the first security company was established in Shenzhen in 1985, the industry has seen incredible growth. In some areas, the demand for bodyguards grows by 200 percent every year. The Ministry of Public Security said it recognizes 2,767 security companies in the country, which according to records employ more than 2 million people.

"One 10 to 20 of these companies actually offer private bodyguard services, but the increase in demand averages 15 to 20 percent each year," Chen said.

In 2008, the domestic security market generated more than

120 billion yuan. This year, it is expected to hit 200 billion yuan.

"Protecting overseas Chinese people and enterprises is also an area into which we can expand. More and more domestic companies are going abroad to participate in international competitions, and they will need protection," Chen said.

But the industry still lacks a powerful brand. "We have been learning from Western countries, especially from Israel, which used to be seen as the best in the security industry," he said. "But copying Israel's model won't work, because China is hardly as embroiled in

violent conflict."

But with rapid development comes the need for more laws. There is also a shortage of talent, since few schools are capable of cultivating professional private bodyguards.

"Many short-term training classes sponsored by security consultant companies are not sufficient, and the bodyguards coming out of these can't provide their clients with the security they expect," he said.

Jiang Song said he expects the industry to continue its explosive growth. "The stronger the industry becomes, the more confident I feel," he said.



# Lending a hand

## Civil rescue organizations seeing more action

By Zhang Dongya

If you were in need – stranded on a mountain, let's say – who would you call?

Who would you trust with your life?

The number of emergency calls from remote areas is on the rise, but government rescue organizations are finding themselves inadequately equipped to handle all the cases.

One Foundation Rescue Association, a group that trains and deploys civil rescue forces, fills in some of the gaps. It is not recognized as "professional," but the group had made great efforts to study rescue technology.

"We hope we can participate in more outdoor rescue operations," said Lu Lingyun, spokesman for the association. "Outdoor rescue requires experience and technology. We have both."



Civil rescue teams have played an important role in outdoor rescues in recent years. Photos provided by One Foundation Rescue Association

### Accident-prone

Statistics from Beijing Bluesky Rescue Team, a non-governmental organization, showed that in 2010 there were 182 outdoor accidents in the country. Beijing led all regions with 99 people involved in accidents and one death. More than 400 people participated in rescue missions in Beijing last year, taking about five hours per rescue.

This year has seen more frequent accidents.

On April 3, more than 30 students from the Beijing Institute of Technology got lost while hiking Mount Mao'er in Fangshan District. More than 300 policemen participated in the rescue. The local government also sent two helicopters for the 14-hour rescue operation.

On April 4, 17 people were trapped on Longmenjian Mountain in Mentougou, a suburb in west Beijing. About 300 people, including 158 policemen, worked for 21 hours. The local government again sent helicopters.

Several civil rescue teams, including Bluesky, Lüye and Shanyue, participated in the rescue.

### Non-governmental forces increasing

"It doesn't seem right to ask a policeman who knows nothing about mountaineering to rescue someone trapped in the mountains," one cop said.

In past years, witnesses have reported seeing police walk up mountains in their uniforms and leather shoes, without any professional equipment.

People have complained that it's a great waste of resources to use helicopters and dispatch hundreds of police.

"Comparatively, they are lacking outdoor experience and the professional technology needed to do mountain rescues," Lu of One Foundation said.

The rescue association, founded as part of Jet Li's One Foundation charity in 2009, provides a platform for all civil rescue teams in the country.

"The association's function is to coordinate and integrate the resources of all rescue teams when outdoor rescue is



Shanyue is the only recognized "professional" outdoor rescue team under government management. CFP Photo



One Foundation founded a rescue association that provides a platform for all civil rescue forces in the country.

needed," Lu said.

So far, 175 civil rescue teams have joined the association, and they have participated in more than 200 rescues during the past two years.

The association is currently developing a global positioning system to make outdoor rescue more efficient. Outdoor enthusiasts will be able to download a program from the association's website and install it on their cell phones. In case of accident, the rescue team can quickly pinpoint the exact location of the stranded hikers.

The system also enables people to mark their tracks using their cell phone. Basically, the program would upload their GPS data to a central server.

Users are required to report to the system after they return. If a return confirmation is not received, a warning will be sent to One Foundation Rescue Association's employees.

The system is expected to be ready in June or July.

"Experience in regions like Hong Kong and foreign countries showed that civil rescue teams have played an important role in outdoor rescue operations," Lu said. "Rescue teams in Hong Kong not only set out into mountains, but also take action when accidents happen in city. Some teams in Shanghai and Guangzhou also serve people when they are in danger in the city."

### Calls for more cooperation

Rescue teams are still predominantly government affiliated, including police and fire brigades. Most people dial 110 or 119 when trapped or in danger. Local police will dispatch units and report the situation to the district emergency office and then the municipal emergency office.

When needed, the emergency office will dispatch a professional outdoor rescue team to help. So far, there is only one "professional" – as recognized by the government – outdoor rescue team: Shanyue Rescue Team.

Founded in 2003, Shanyue is a public service organization under the supervi-

sion of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports. It has 40 regular members, all of whom are volunteers. Most of them are bosses of private companies, which means they have the free time to take part in rescue missions. They also bear all the costs of rescue missions.

"We have strict conditions for joining," said Wang Xin, head of the Shanyue Rescue Team. "We have to make sure all members have adequate free time, and that they are able to handle the financial responsibilities."

Wang said there are 16 recognized professional rescue teams under the management of the Beijing municipal government, covering mining, electric power and outdoor rescue.

Shanyue, as the only exclusively outdoor rescue team, appears frequently at the scene of accidents.

Other civil rescue teams like Lüye also set out to help when they get information from the Internet.

"Information is asymmetrical for them," Wang said. "They rely on the Internet for information, while we take orders from the government. Also, we have not established a relationship to share information between each other."

But is a rivalry between government-affiliated and non-government-affiliated rescue teams really in people's best interest?

Many outdoor enthusiasts have expressed hope that more professional rescue teams can be formed. They have petitioned the local government for more resources to train professional rescuers.

However, no governmental department is in charge of this issue.

Civil rescue teams, on the other hand, have multilayered supervisory units.

Lu, the spokesman of the One Foundation Rescue Association, said there is certainly room for his group to cooperate with the local government.

He said his group is going to collaborate with police in Fangshan District in applying the new positioning system.

But as always, this is the advice that should be heeded: "Outdoor enthusiasts are advised to be more cautious," Lu said.

# Carmakers' path to the global stage

To see how this year's Shanghai Auto Show has grown, just check the guest list: General Motors Chief Executive Officer Dan Akerson, Volkswagen AG's Martin Winterkorn, Toyota Motor's Akio Toyoda and Carlos Ghosn, who runs both Renault SA and Nissan Motor.

But while global automakers look to China, where should domestic carmakers head? The chairman of the country's largest automaker served a notice to the global brands at the start of the Shanghai auto show: within five years his cars will be just as well known.



About 700,000 people visited the Shanghai auto show during the past week.

Wen Lei/IC Photos

"Our brands, such as Roewe and MG, will have a reputation and fame similar to the international brands like Buick and Volkswagen [by 2015]," SAIC Motor President Chen Hong said at the exhibition.

His ambitious comments reflect long-held hopes in China of freeing its auto market – now the world's largest – from domination by foreign brands.

SAIC and other Chinese companies are expanding aggressively, buying foreign automakers, acquiring technology and setting up factory and dealer networks across Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

"China has never made any secret of its ambition to have a great auto industry," said industry analyst Michael Dunne, president of research firm Dunne & Co.

But China's market remains dominated by US giant General Motors and Germany's Volkswagen, who have 13 percent and 11.4 percent of the market respectively.

None of the nearly 75 other brands on sale in China have more than four percent of the heavily fragmented market, where a record 18 million cars were sold last year, Dunne said.

More than any other company at the Shanghai auto show, which concludes Thursday, SAIC illustrates the many ways Chinese carmakers are trying to become global players.

SAIC is the largest Chinese automaker by sales because of its joint ventures with both GM and Volkswagen. Government rules require foreign companies to have a Chinese partner to make cars in China.

But SAIC has gone further, forming a joint venture with GM last year aimed at expanding in emerging Asian markets, ini-



The Aston Martin One-77 as seen on display at the exhibition

**"Chinese automakers are pursuing the ambitious strategy of developing both domestic and overseas markets in the hopes of emulating Japanese and Korean rivals like Toyota and Hyundai."**

tially focusing on selling small cars and minivans in India.

It has also gone overseas to acquire Britain's MG Rover and South Korea's SsangYong, which it has owned for several years, to gain technology and reputable brands.

Having already created its own marks such as Roewe, it last week launched the first model of its Baojun brand, co-developed with GM and Wuling Motors, as part of a new breed of local brands.

Honda, Nissan and Peugeot are also rolling out China-only, low-cost brands in what is increasingly seen as a new competition for international carmakers operating in China.

The new policy reflects the government's impatience for domestic companies' slow progress in developing their own technology, Dunne said – the new brands mean Chinese companies co-own the cars' intellectual property.

No official directive behind the trend has been published, but Dunne said that anecdotally the message was that "the life of a joint venture company is going to be a lot smoother from a regulatory point of view – a lot smoother – if there's a new brand."

GM would only say Baojun represented a chance to reach a new kind of consumer.

SAIC said it hopes Baojun

can help double its total sales to more than 6 million units – 800,000 of those overseas – by 2015.

Chinese automakers are pursuing the ambitious strategy of developing both domestic and overseas markets in the hopes of emulating Japanese and Korean rivals like Toyota and Hyundai, said Jin Yibo, spokesman for China's Chery Automobile.

Those carmakers realized that only by plunging into overseas markets would they be forced to raise their game to meet foreign competition – thereby allowing them to defend, and expand, their market share at home, he told AFP.

At the auto show stand belonging to Geely, which acquired Sweden's Volvo from Ford last year, Moustafa Abou Ghali, a Cairo car dealer, said a fifth of his sales last year were Geely models.

Chinese carmakers had successfully addressed quality concerns, he said, but now their challenge was to create brand identities that grab attention.

"You have Hyundai, Kia, Chevrolet. Everybody knows them. So how can Geely compete?" Abou Ghali said.

"Creating a brand is equally as important as improving the quality when it comes to the sales price."

Geely has factories in Russia, Ukraine, Malaysia and Indonesia producing for overseas markets and aims to have 15 plants abroad by 2015.

Jin said overseas sales were a key plank in the strategy of Chery Automobile, which sold 92,000 cars abroad last year and has 16 overseas factories and dealers in 80 countries, including Iran, Russia and the Philippines.

(Agencies)

## Hainan duty free trial a success

By Huang Daohu

Hainan's tax rebate program seems to be a success. Thousands of customers swarmed its new duty-free stores that opened last Wednesday.

Experts say the trial program may be a new way to boost domestic consumption and avoid sending Chinese money abroad.

More than 1,000 customers queued in front of the duty free shop before it opened for its first day of business, Teng Rui, the store manager, told Xinhua.

Teng said the rush exceeded his expectations, and that some counters offering perfume and cosmetics soon went bare within minutes of opening.

The Sanya shop, run by the China Duty Free Group, sells 20 types of imported commodities, varying from luxury-branded bags, jewelry and cosmetics to perfumes.

Opening day saw about 6,000 purchases in the store, Teng said.

The pilot program, modeled on Japan's Okinawa, is part of Hainan Province's efforts to mold the island into a tourism and shopping destination. Tourists 18 or older are allowed to buy up to 5,000 yuan's worth of duty-free imported commodities before flying to another mainland city.

Tourists bound for overseas cannot shop at this duty free location.

Li Rui, a Beijinger who spent last weekend in Sanya with his wife, was among the shoppers on opening day.

"The policy is attractive, especially for women," he said.

Li said imported cosmetics were much cheaper – 20 to 35 percent less – than equivalents in Beijing. He and his wife spent a combined 8,000 yuan.

Customers shopped like everything was free, Li said. The Gucci stand began limiting access after hundreds of shoppers swarmed it.

But Li said the 5,000-yuan cap was a bit low. "If I want to buy a watch priced 3,000 yuan, I cannot buy a brand-name bag for my wife," he said.

Officials said the rebate cap may be adjusted as the trial program continues.

Industrial analysts said the new policy would benefit Hainan's economy and could be copied by other cities to boost domestic consumption.

As more Chinese tourists begin to travel and spend more on luxury goods, it will be necessary to lure them to spend some at home, said Wen Yijun, an analyst at Oriental Securities in Beijing.

Statistics from the Ministry of Commerce show Chinese tourists spent more than 200 billion yuan abroad on luxury goods in 2010.

"They used to go abroad to buy tax-free commodities; now they have another chance to do it at home in Hainan," Wen said.



# Dog rescue dilemma

By Huang Daohen

Many dog lovers cheered the recent rescue of almost 500 dogs on a truck headed to a slaughterhouse, but the rescue came with a price. Volunteers spent lots of money and sparked a nationwide debate: how much is a dog's life worth, and did the rescuers have the right to stop the truck?



A truck carrying about 500 dogs was stopped by animal lovers at a highway toll station. Photo provided by Capital Animals Welfare Association

On April 15, a young Beijing motorist, An Lidong, blocked a truck at a highway tollbooth in Tongzhou District when he noticed about 500 dogs caged in the back.

An had heard of trucks transporting dogs to dog-meat markets in the north. He said he was driving home that day when he realized the truck next to him could be doing just that.

An texted his friends and posted the news on his microblog. Within a couple of hours, about 200 volunteers nearby

responded and arrived at the toll station. They brought water and food to the dogs and asked the driver to release the dogs.

The two sides were locked in a stalemate, blocking the highway. More than 100 police officers arrived at scene but found the trucker's papers were valid, and the dogs' owner was allowed to transport the dogs.

After a 15-hour standoff, the two sides reached an agreement: the volunteers spent about 115,000 yuan, funded by an animal

rights charity, to buy the dogs, most of whom were injured. Ten were already dead.

The volunteers then took the dogs to the China Small Animal Protection Association shelter in Haidian District, while the badly injured were sent to animal hospitals nearby.

The incident raised a firestorm on the Internet. While many supported the action, others argued that such an act prevented others from conducting legal business.

## A survey with standard answers

By Zhao Hongyi

Residents in some communities in Chaoyang District asked to give standard replies for a culture inspection roused suspicion among the public.

In order to win a campaign to become a government-recognized "national cultured district," some officials in Chaoyang District handed out a cheat sheet of answers to a questionnaire and asked residents to respond accordingly.

For instance, the suggested answer to the question "How many times do you do physical exercise every week?" is "often." If pressed, residents should answer "three times every week and at least one hour each time," the handout said.

The answer to "Have you ever bought expired, deteriorated or fake food products in your community?" should be "never."

For the question "Are you satisfied with the transportation network and service in your community?" the answer should be "satisfied."

Some residents were angered by the handout. "Someone is manipulating the survey," said Wang Que, a resident in Fuli Compound, east of Chaoyang District. He criticized the survey as ridiculous.

"They didn't leave a return address or phone number on the notice," Wang said, "otherwise I'd have contacted them for an explanation."

Instead, Wang alerted Chinese newspapers and TV stations.

"I'd like to wait for the surveyors to come to my house and tell them the truth," Yang Jinwen, a resident in a community in Dougezhuang Village, said. "Who says we are satisfied with the environment, services and transportation here?"

An officer of the civilization office of Dougezhuang Village said the questionnaire is in fact a method for "popularizing and promoting civilization" in their communities. The prepared replies are only for reference, not mandatory, he said.

## Comment

### Better serving people

Some low level government shall change their role in serving the community. For instance, they should become a service provider, offering or perfect the library and entertainment centers for the residents.

— Yang Jinwen, senior engineer, EFD Beijing Office

### Ignore it

Fortunately, we can at least choose not to give prepared answers. I disagree with most of the answers they listed, and I will write down my real feelings in the questionnaire.

— Jin Yuchang, retiree

### New method to collect public views

Local governments and officials need to see progress, but they do not put in enough time or effort because they're busy trying to do things like the standard hangout. We need new methods of collecting public views and new methods of supervising officials.

— Ye Zhuji, commentator, Jinan Daily

## Behind the news

### Helping hands or public menace?

While media and dog lovers praised the volunteers, law experts regret that the incident happened. Shirley Wen, a lawyer in Beijing, said the highway rescuers actually ignored public order and the legal rights of the dogs' owner.

The biggest problem, Wen said, is that volunteers did things out of their own interests. "They stopped the truck on the highway and caused traffic congestion. It's actually illegal to stop others from

doing business," she said.

When we talk about animal protection, it should be from the perspective of serving human beings first, Wen said.

But regardless of the move's legality, Wen said the question of how to find homes for these dogs is now the biggest challenge.

The shelter where most of these dogs are held is currently soliciting donations to pay for food and medicine, but

staff said they are experiencing difficulties. "We need more experienced volunteers and more funds," said Zhang Xiaofei, director of the shelter's volunteers program.

Zhang said they are now putting some of the healthy dogs up for adoption. But here is the other problem: since many of the dogs are taller than 40 centimeters, they cannot be legally kept as pets within Fifth Ring Road.

## Comment

Can dogs be eaten like pigs and cows? How should we treat the man's best friend? *Beijing Today* asked locals and expats around town.

### An inspiring act

This is an inspiring story that suggests some people are taking a stand against the cruelty on animals in China. Chinese people are beginning to organize more effectively to protect animals and spread animal awareness. I thank those people who stopped the truck. Hopefully, with social media growing, we will see a lot more of this in the future.

— Karen Zhang, secretary

### Try vegetarianism

Animals like cows and sheep are at least as intelligent as dogs, yet we slaughter them by the hundreds of millions across the world. I'm not saying killing dogs is right, but as a nation we should all try to eat less meat.

— Zhang Wei, HR officer

### Don't eat dog meat

To say that there is no difference between eating dog to eating other meats is wrong.

I have seen how these animals are slaughtered. First they are skinned alive, then left to die in pain, which people believe will leave the meat more tender.

Also, dogs are on top of the food chain and more evolved and intelligent than the other animals we commonly eat.

— Sandy Brown, American English teacher

### Hypocritical

That some people keep dogs as pets doesn't give them the right to stop those who want to eat them. Meat is meat, whether from a chicken or dog. Do chickens have fewer rights than dogs? No, they don't.

I am a dog lover and also a meat eater. Although I would never dare eat dog meat, I cannot judge those who do. It would be hypocritical to eat chicken and beef while condemning those who eat other animals. No meat eater has the right to condemn

another meat eater.

— John Wells, business consultant

### Animal rights law needed

It's tragic just how many innocent dogs are victims of such barbaric acts. One would have thought that a technologically advanced country like China would have enacted laws to prevent animal cruelty.

In the Europe and the US, there are agencies looking after the welfare of animals, and any cruelty against them will be severely punished. Despite the many hurdles, I sincerely hope that angelic acts such as this one can be seen more often.

— Anna Ramesh, cafe manager

### Sad news

This story makes me sad. China is becoming American. I will cry when I can no longer order dogs, rabbits and deer in a restaurant.

— D, American copy editor in Beijing

# American investor thinks highly of Beijing film festival

By Li Zhixin

The inaugural Beijing International Film Festival (BIFF) not only attracted 21 presidents of international film festivals, 334 film studios and 860 filmmakers, but also many investors from home and abroad.

On Monday, American Sierra Leone Production Company, China Film Group and Pony Pentium Pictures declared intent to co-produce *The Flying Tiger*, a film by John Woo. The Flying Tigers, officially known as American Volunteer Group, was a covert squad of air force pilots set up by President Franklin Roosevelt during World War II.

Michael F. Bianco, CEO of American Capital Markets Group, is a descendant of a Flying Tiger. He showed strong interest in the movie during the film festival.

Nephew and godson of Major S. Thomas "Bud" Bianco, one of the Flying Tigers, Bianco grew up listening to stories of his uncle's exploits in the war.

He said his uncle was very tall and always immaculately dressed, in a crisp, clean uniform. Bud was also a lawyer, which certainly helped his image in young Michael's eyes.

Bianco still remembers how Chinese workers constructed a runway for the Flying Tigers in record time. "The Chinese villagers treated my uncle like their family," Bianco said. "They would risk their lives to hide and save my uncle."

"My uncle really loved China and Chinese people, even though he suffered from malaria and extreme stress during the war."

Influenced by his uncle, Bianco developed a love for aviation at a very young age. He said he still remembers his favorite gift, a P-40 model airplane given to him by his uncle when he was 3 years old.

"I am expecting the Flying Tigers' story to be put on the screen, as their story is very well known in China, but in America they are not as well known," Bianco said. "People

think about the war in Europe and they don't think much about the Pacific front."

Bianco is also a director of Ganson Ventures and American Productions, which produced and distributed 18 travel documentaries from Asia, the US and Europe. He was the executive director of *A Touch of Beijing*, which was broadcast nationwide on the PBS network.

After participating in BIFF's opening ceremony, director's forum and project negotiations, Bianco said he came away impressed. He said, China has made great advances in filmmaking during the last decade. In Beijing alone, there are 102 theaters with 510 screens.

"Beijing showed its strong organizing ability of big events again after the Olympic Games," he said. "I also witnessed the municipal government's great effort in supporting the festival. The festival is bound to be the one of the most famous film festivals in the world. It will be another influential card of Beijing."



Photo provided by Michael F. Bianco

Michael F. Bianco

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# After crisis, Japan seeks strong diplomatic ties with China

By Chu Meng

Last weekend, a Japanese delegation led by Tatsuo Sato, the senior nuclear expert and director at the Japanese Atomic Energy Security Infrastructure Agency made the country's first official visit to China since a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami devastated the country's north-east last month.

Sato and others laid out to Chinese media and relevant government organizations Japan's current plan in the ongoing Fukushima nuclear plant dilemma.

The Japanese Atomic Energy Security Infrastructure Agency provides technical support for nuclear energy development and safety to the government and Tokyo Electric Power. At a press conference in the Japanese embassy in Beijing on Sunday, Sato denied that the Fukushima plant was ever "in possession of nuclear weapons."

When questioned about this conspiracy theory, both Sato and Kazuyuki Yamazaki, minister of the Japanese embassy in Beijing, scrambled to answer first.

"I have worked in the agency for several years. Never had I heard about nuclear weapons being secretly developed at Fuku-

shima nuclear plant," Sato said.

"Japan's position on nuclear weapons has been consistent," Yamazaki said. "That is, Japan not only refuses to develop nuclear weapons, it also advocates the abolition of nuclear weapons worldwide."

Sato said the false speculation was largely due to the delayed explosion during the early phases, which later directly caused a repeated adjustment of the nuclear accident level from 3 to 6, and eventually to the highest level of 7.

"Nuclear leakage is very difficult to measure initially," he said. "After the earthquake and tsunami, the power equipment of the first nuclear power plant in Fukushima stopped running. Backup power also failed. Therefore, there was no way to monitor the radioactive material during the early phase."

He said for the same reason, it's always difficult to grasp the scale of nuclear accidents, for quantitative judgments of nuclear leakage must be based on data that require a long time to collect.

Sato apologized to China for the discharge of low concentrated radioactive wastewater in to the Pacific by Tokyo Electric



CFP Photo

People are prohibited from entering villages and cities near the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

Power, which was in violation of the International Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"In order to prevent more serious damage, we were forced to do that. We are sincerely sorry for any environmental and food-safety effects brought to China and the surrounding countries," he said.

Yamazaki said the country

wants to rebuild its relationship with China.

Specific measures include attracting foreign investment in special economic zones in the affected areas and industrial parks, as the number of foreign tours has decreased drastically.

They will also promote the safety of Japan's agricultural products overseas to help the recovery

of the local agriculture industry, as well as to further relax restrictions for importing foreign agricultural products.

"The reconstruction will be unprecedented in Japan's history," the minister said. "We hope we will get proper suggestions from the Chinese people and this will strengthen exchanges and cooperation with China."

## Film screening commemorates Hungarian soccer player



Soccer school students encouraged to emulate Puskás' spirit.

Photo by Li Zhixin

By Li Zhixin

Last Friday, the Hungarian embassy held an open-air screening of a documentary about Ferenc Puskás, a Hungarian soccer player and one of the greatest players of the 20th century, at Guocuiyuan Entertainment Plaza to commemorate his life.

Puskás, born in Budapest in 1927, scored 84 goals in 85 international matches for Hungary and 514 goals in 529 matches in the Hungarian and Spanish leagues.

He became Olympic champion in 1952 and was a World Cup finalist in 1954. He won three European Cups, 10 national championships and eight individual scoring honors.

He was voted one of the greatest soccer players by World Soccer Magazine and recognized as the top scorer of the 20th century by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS).

The Hungarian Football Federation in the Union of European Football Association (UEFA) also named Puskás the best Hungarian player of the last 50 years. In 2009, FIFA introduced the FIFA Puskás Award, awarded to the player who has scored the "most beautiful goal" over the past year.

"His human characteristics, his social responsiveness and helpfulness made him a figure of the century both on the soccer

field and off it as well," said Sándor Kusai, the Hungarian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

The embassy invited many Chinese amateur soccer players to attend the screening, and the ambassador encouraged them to break Asian records and set their sights on the World Cup.

Adam Nemenyi, the producer of Ferenc Puskás, said he also hopes that today's young players can learn from Puskás and remember that with hard work and devotion one can achieve great results.

"Puskás was an optimist, he was a very smart player," said Tian Hui, a student. "He was always going to be the greatest among the best."

## Gov says foreign investors will have more leeway

By Han Manman

Foreign investors in China will have more room to operate and potential for higher profits as the country's economy continues to develop, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday in a response to an American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham-China) survey that said foreign investors are getting a raw deal here.

Hong Lei, spokesman for the foreign ministry, told Xinhua that China is committed to reforming and opening-up policy and is trying to create a more optimal environment for companies supported by foreign investment.

"We will increase market access and promote trade and investment liberalization in accordance with current international regulations," he said, adding that the country will continue to build an open and transparent legal environment.

Hong's remark came in response to the 2011 White Paper on the State of American Business in China, released by AmCham-China on Tuesday.

The report said most US companies operating in China have expressed concerns that China's business policies are promoting local companies over foreign competition.

Also, there is an emerging pattern of Chinese industrial policies that favor domestic companies while stifling foreign competition, including regulations related to indigenous innovation, licensing, standards, government procurement, competition law and intellectual property enforcement.

But despite these inconveniences,

American firms still feel optimistic about the Chinese economy. About 85 percent of American firms surveyed reported revenue growth in 2010 and 78 percent said that they were "profitable" or "very profitable," the report said.

Christian Murk, president of AmCham-China, said about 41 percent of its members reported their margins in China are higher compared to worldwide margins.

"This number saying that they are more profitable in China than they are elsewhere has been fairly consistent over a long period of time," Murk said. "It is not a new phenomenon. The major opportunity and advantage that this market offers is scale, size and growth."

To seize the business opportunity provided by the Chinese market, companies need to take some long-term strategies.

"Profitability is closely correlated with the length of time a company has been in the market," Murk said. "So if you look at somebody who's been doing business here for two or three years, they are very likely not to be profitable at all."

"But if you look at companies that have been here for five years or more, almost all of them have learned how to operate here and have been able to offer products and services that give them most revenue growth and good profit margins."

AmCham-China is a non-profit organization representing the interests of some 2,600 US companies and individuals doing business in China. This year marks the 13th year of the White Paper.

# New lit magazine hosts discussion on rural issues



Ou Ning, chief editor of Chutzpah!

The launch of *Chutzpah!*, which means "shameless audacity," was held on April 17 at One Way Street Library.

Readers had the chance to meet Ou Ning, chief editor of the magazine, a bareheaded, soft-spoken man behind black-frame glasses who also organizes book launches around the country.

Ou said the magazine was originally a folk literary magazine established in 1982. The initial issue was 260 pages and sold for 25 yuan.

As described by the English magazine *Wallpaper*: using "the aesthetic of fashion magazines and, using experimental photography and design, [it] brings high brow literature to a modern audience."

The highlight of the first issue was a section called *Agrarian Asia* that focused on rural life, collecting fiction and poetry written about the countryside.

The famous Indian author Arundhati Roy's essay "The Greater Common Good," written in protest of the notorious Narmada Dam Project in an issue of *Chutzpah!* in the 1990s, appears again in the magazine this month.

As for the most recent incarnation, "We hope to persuade people, especially university students and young intellectuals, to return to reading by giving them a magazine that feels like a book," Ou said.

"What we are doing is exploring creative ways to present literature," Ou said. "Challenging the old style and the so-called standard requires courage."

As a result, he said the magazine's English name fits perfectly with its style.

The magazine also aims to get people to pay more attention to the issues around rural development and rural life.

In the magazine, Ou has an article about an experimental village development program at Chaing Mai in Thailand named the Land Project, conducted by artists from around the world.

Artistic installations and eco-friendly structures are placed on the farmland. Artists plant rice, vegetables and fruit trees.

"Though the project provides many solutions, it has little to do with rural development. No farmer is living there," Ou said.

Articles on rural practices in Thailand and Japan are also included. "By providing foreign experiences, we hope to inspire innovative ways to address serious rural problems in China," Ou said.

Liang Hong, famous for a non-

By Liang Meilan

A wave of literary magazines has recently emerged in China to promote social responsibility. *Chutzpah!*, launched earlier this month, is one example.

The bimonthly magazine's inaugural issue deals with contemporary rural development in Asia – China in particular. Articles were written by intellectuals from home and abroad – people interested in the topic or who have intimate knowledge of rural issues.

Contributors to the magazine were invited to discuss social reform in terms of rural construction and ask how intellectuals can contribute.



Chutzpah!'s editorial team

Photo by Shao Xin



Rural development has become a serious topic in China.

Photo provided by Chutzpah!

fiction article about her hometown in Liangzhuang Village, is among the contributors. Liang has written about her village's over-urbanization and its impact on villagers' lives.

Liang and some of the magazine's editors went to rural areas in Fujian and Lankao for field research before writing "Action on the Land," which imagines young intellectuals from cities who are committed to the country's development.

Ou said the magazine is his brainchild, formed after five years of thinking about rural development.

"The rural problem is affecting China and the whole of Asia," he said. "Crises will erupt without proper solutions."

As a multimedia curator, editor and graphic designer, Ou started two urban research projects back in 2005 at Sanyuanli village in Guangzhou Province and Dashier District in Beijing.

He concluded that social problems existing in Guangzhou's urban villages or Beijing's slums are rooted in China's unhealthy urban-rural relationships.

After that, Ou's attention shifted from artistic cities to problematic rural areas.

He designed a "utopian" rural community in a village in Anhui Province – run by intellectuals – but it has yet to be realized.

Talking about the function of the magazine, Ou said: "it's to conduct academic subjects with the literary method." In other words: "literature for social reform's sake."

"As opposed to most Chinese mainstream literary magazines, we emphasize more in-depth thoughts and the feasibility of ideas," he said.

"In most cases, art is used merely for questioning. But social problems are complicated, requiring multiple forces to enact the smallest of changes. I don't mean artists are useless. They can definitely pose questions and suggestions, pushing social reform little by little."

Ou said foreign magazines like *Granta* and *Public Space* are his models.

A distinctive feature of *Chutzpah!* is that it includes an English-language companion of some of the articles in the magazine. Translators are all foreign experts devoted to Chinese literature.

The magazine's editorial team will host related events for each issue. The coming one is about science fiction.

Anyone interested can visit [chutzpahmagazine.com.cn](http://chutzpahmagazine.com.cn).

## Event

### Strawberry Music Festival shuttle bus

The Strawberry Music Festival hits town this weekend, but since it's located out in remote Tongzhou Canal Park, getting there can be a headache. Here's a fun solution: reserve one of the 30 seats on Brick Bar's rental shuttle bus and enjoy free beer along the way.

Where: The Brick, 1/F, Tianzhi Jiaozhi Building, 31 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 30, May 1 and May 2, multiple buses leaving between 10:30 am and 10:30 pm

Tel: 13911136564

Cost: 40 yuan

### American tackle football practices

Full-contact American football has arrived: the Beijing Guardians' 5 vs. 5 League's spring season is set to begin. Practice is every Saturday. Players should pick up their equipment after arriving at the field. Stars and beginners are equally welcomed.

Where: Chaoyang Sports Center, 77 Yaojiayuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Saturday, 5-7 pm

Email: [nathan@beijingguardians.com](mailto:nathan@beijingguardians.com)

Cost: First practice is free

### 5Rhythms workshop

5Rhythms will guide a meditation session that teaches people to breathe and dance. A three-day workshop will be led by Dr. Kabba, one of the most popular certified 5Rhythms teachers, here from Hawaii.

Where: Mountain Yoga Retreat Center, Fragrant Hills Park (Xiangshan), Xiangshan, Haidian District

When: April 30 – May 2, time to be determined

Website: [mountain-yoga.org](http://mountain-yoga.org)

Tel: 5935 9136

Cost: 400 yuan per day

### Heyrobics outdoor premiere

Heyrobics is launching outdoor sessions at Chaoyang Park on Saturday. Circle training begins at 1 pm and an intermediate Heyrobics session at 3 pm. Heyrobics is the most common exercise people in Sweden use to keep fit – essentially a one-hour workout performed with a single leader demonstrating easy-to-follow movements that utilize the entire body.

Where: Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang Gongyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 30, 1-4 pm

Tel: 13581974260

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)



# Public bike rental stations on the rise

By Zhao Hongyi

Bikes – nudged aside in the past decade as car ownership has soared in Beijing – may be making a comeback.

The city will build more public bike rental terminals, especially around subway stations, as part of a plan initiated by Lian Yuming.

At present, Beijing has three bicycle renting companies: Beike Lantu, Fangzhou and Ibikemedia. But all of them are in poor shape, and Fangzhou declared bankruptcy last October.

But the government is determined to restore the prestige of bicycles. It said it will expand the bicycle renting system, increase the sites in six downtown districts, build new sites in the surrounding districts, lower the renting price to 1 yuan per hour and let Forever, the country's top bicycle manufacturer, based Shanghai, enter the renting market in Beijing within the next five years.

The municipality aims to build up to 1,000 bike rental sites and introduce 50,000 public bicycles.

Cars – to the tune of 4 million – have turned what was formerly known as the Bicycle Kingdom into a kingdom of automobiles. Pollution and traffic congestion have become serious concerns.

As a result, the municipal government is trying to encourage citizens to bike instead of drive whenever possible.

But bikers need to be aware of where they park, officials say, especially with the influx of visitors expected for the May 1 – International Labor Day – holiday.



For illegally parked bicycles, traffic police will tie a notice card with a green ribbon as a warning.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

One hot spot to watch out for is the newly renovated China National Museum on the east side of Tian'anmen Square, one of the busiest tourist sites in the city. In the bushes surrounding the museum are parked many private bicycles and electric motorbikes.

"This is not allowed," said Li Feng, director of the Munic-

ipal Bureau of City Administration and Law Enforcement, Tian'anmen Branch.

A notice card with a green ribbon is tied to illegally parked bicycles, reading: "To maintain order surrounding Tian'anmen Square, please place your bicycle in the proper place along the east and west walls of the Forbidden City."

Bikes can also be parked along the east wall of the Working People's Cultural Palace and the west wall of Zhongshan Park.

To learn more, contact the Beijing Transportation Management Bureau of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport at 8397 9648 or 8356 0833, or visit bjysj.gov.cn/wsxx/jjxxx/index\_175.htm.

# Space program solicits logos, names for planned space station

By Zhao Hongyi

At a public ceremony on Monday, China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO), along with QQ, invited the public to submit ideas for logos and names for its space station, which should be completed by 2020.

The space station, as the third and final stage of Project 921, will consist of five parts: one central cabin, two cabins for scientific experiments, one spaceship for cargo transportation and one for human deliveries.

The office is inviting the public to help name four cabins on the ships and the space station as a whole, and logos for the space program and the station.

Logo ideas will be accepted until May 20, and names until July 25.

A panel will choose the winning names and logos from 10 finalists, said Wang Wenbao, director of the general office under CMSEO. The finalists will be revealed in September.

"We invite all Chinese around



China Manned Space Engineering Office is seeking logos and names for its space station.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

the world, especially young ones, to contribute to our program," said Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut in space in 2003. Yang is now deputy director of CMSEO.

CMSEO is the general coordinating office of China's space industry, which is coordinating more than 110 research institutes and 3,000 production units in the country.

China's six taikonauts were

present at Monday's ceremony.

The country is scheduled to launch Shenzhou 8 spacecraft and Tiangong 1, a Chinese module for a space station in development, later this year. The two spacecrafts will intersect and join together for the first time as an experimental prelude for the station.

China started its ambitious space program in 1992. It sent its

first unmanned spaceship, Shenzhou 1, into the orbit in November 1999; Shenzhou 2 followed in 2001, and Shenzhou 3 and Shenzhou 4 were launched in 2002.

In 2003, Yang became the first Chinese taikonaut to enter space in Shenzhou 5. In October 2005, China sent two more taikonauts into space, and in September 2009 the country sent a group of three taikonauts who successfully walked out of the spaceship.

The country launched its first moon explorer, Chang'E 1, in 2007, and Chang'E 2 last October. It is scheduled to launch more explorers to the moon and Mars.

"We're open for cooperation with foreign colleagues and invite them to carry out experiments on the space platform we are building," Wang said.

For more information about the names and logos, visit cmseo.gov.cn or chinaspace.com, or send ideas directly to kongjianzhan@vip.qq.com.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyiing@ynet.com

**I want to learn Yunnan and Sichuan cooking. Where can I find cookbooks for that?**

If you are looking for a cookbook in English, I would recommend *Land of Plenty*, written by Fuxia Dunlop, a foreign correspondent for the BBC who attended a culinary institute in Sichuan Province. You can order it through Amazon. If you are looking for ones in Chinese, go to the bookstores at Xidan or Wangfujing. You should find more than a good selection there.

**My parents are visiting Beijing next week and because of work, I don't have time to take them around town. I want to book them on a tour that will expose them to Chinese culture, but one that has good English-speaking guides.**

Try the website thehutong.com, run by two expats who have lived in China for years. They have a calendar of various cultural activities lined up, like dumpling-making, Chinese tea tasting and traditional Chinese medicine diet therapy. Each class is about two hours long.

**I want to make some authentic southern American cornbread but need to find the ingredients. I had no success at Jenny Lou's. Can you help me?**

Jenny Lou's and the other international grocers are not your best choice for these types of ingredients. Go to the bulk rice and grains section of any local grocery store or wet market. Cornmeal is cheap in China and available every day, just not in a pre-packaged form.

**I have been in Beijing for two years and am increasingly interested in Chinese. Can you recommend some Chinese novels?**

Check out *My Country and My People* (Wu Guo Wu Min) by Lin Yutang. The book digs deep into Chinese culture and society. It was originally written in English in the 1930s, then translated into Chinese. It may not be a very easy reading, but it's worth a try. A lighter option is Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Good Earth* (Da Di) by Pearl S. Buck. The author had a great understanding of the Chinese mentality and the story is well written and easy to follow. Or pick up *Fortress Besieged* (Wei Cheng) by Qian Zhongshu, a relatively easy read in Chinese.

(By Liang Meilan)

# Born into opera

## Italian director interprets Puccini

By He Jianwei  
There are few opera directors like Giancarlo del Monaco, a master who can recite and sing more than 80 operas from memory.  
Son of famous tenor Mario del Monaco, Giancarlo has the kind of beautiful voice needed to follow in his father's footsteps.  
But he chose another path.

During his 46 years of directing opera, he has mastered the art of getting inside a composer's head. At the invitation of the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), del Monaco will present his sixth version of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* on May 12.



Giancarlo del Monaco



Set in the Rome of 1800 - one facing by the threat of Napoleon's invasion - *Tosca* is a story about love and fate, politics and conspiracy.

Photos provided by NCPA

Supporting a pair of big black sunglasses, a black leather garment and swept-back gray hair, Monaco looks like he's from the 1950s. In France, Puccini's *The Godfather* Singers describe the director as energetic and passionate during rehearsals.

"He is the busiest man on the stage - he not only tells us how to walk, but also sings and performs in front of us," said the soprano Sun Xiuwei at Monday's rehearsal.

Sun is a renowned soprano active on the European stage. She has worked with Monaco several times in staging *Madame Butterfly*. "He is different from other directors - he remembers all lyrics and melodies. What I admire most is that he can sing and perform every character on stage," Sun said.

At the rehearsal, the director could scarcely hide his enthusiasm for the art. His rapid and excited speech gave his interpreter trouble. At one moment, he even burst into song.

But his joyful image is a far cry from the one he has in his father's shadow. "I was a puppet for my father," he said.

Born in Venice in 1943, Monaco grew up in the opera. When he was four, he had his first experience with opera. He thought he was going to be like his father, singing Puccini's *Il Trovatore* (The Cuckoo).

"Unlike other children, I didn't like to listen to pop music. I thought it was silly. I had no intention of learning to sing. I was only 16 when I had picked up 60 pieces by the time I was 16," he said.

There was one thing he was sure of: he would not be a tenor. "I was a smart kid, but I would never outshine my father," he said.

Monaco was a famous tenor throughout Europe. If I became a tenor, I would only have been known as Monaco's son," he said.

As a tenor, he turned his energies to directing. He became a stage director of *Samson and Delilah*, a production starting his father, in Sicily.

From there he went to Germany as assistant to Wieland Wagner, Gunther Rennert and Walter Felsenstein before assuming the post of principal stage director in 1973, where he staged some 15 productions.

He was general manager of the Macerata Festival in Italy from 1986 to 1988 and the general manager of the Opernhaus Bundesstadt Bonn in Germany from 1992 to 1997. From 1997 to 2001, Monaco was the general director of the Opera House in Munich.

It was during this time that he became one of the most important and sought after stage directors of his generation.

But early on, there were many singers who would not acknowledge his ability.

In a rehearsal of *Madame Butterfly* in the Czech Republic, Monaco asked the tenor to sing a note. He said, "I was smoking a cigar. I didn't like B. F.

Plakerton, the lieutenant in the US navy, who deceived the Japanese woman, so I designed this scene to depict the character," Monaco said.

After that, Monaco and his team planned that he would not follow the director's instructions. Monaco made no concession and told the manager if the singers did not act as he ordered, he would walk out on his contract.

The tenor teased the director, asking whether a Japanese conductor would do without a cigarette. Monaco climbed onto the stage, laid on the ground and sang the aria while smoking.

After he sang it, the orchestra erupted in applause. "I saw the tenor's complexion turn yellow with embarrassment. At last, he followed my directions," the director said. "I was so happy that I told him that I would not follow the director's instructions. If I tried that today, the orchestra would be pelting me with rotten produce."

Monaco's repertoire contains more than 100 operas staged in their original languages.

Puccini is his favorite composer and Tosca his favorite. "It is the zenith of his creation. The music is both sensitive and majestic. He has a gift for theater closely creating a scene from a movie. My version of Tosca recaptures that feeling - like seeing a movie," he said.

He said the theme of Tosca is the threat of Napoleon's invasion.

Tosca is a story about love and hate, politics and conspiracy. "The story is similar to Shakespeare's *Othello*," he said. "Tosca's envy is like fire, burning down everyone - herself, her lover, the political regime in her house and the church she belongs to."

Normally, the first act would be one scene, but on the stage, he presents an old church with sloping pillars, which symbolizes the threat of Napoleon's invasion on the verge of destruction.

"When the chief of police Baron Scarpia chants in the church, he thinks of his evil lust for Tosca. We have a 4-minute video projected on the stage, making it even more like a movie," he said.

Monaco is always compared to his father. He said, "I am not my father. I am a director successful in both film and opera."

Although Zeffirelli is 20 years his senior, Monaco criticizes Zeffirelli's sensational effects. He classifies Zeffirelli as part of the traditional Italian school of opera and regards himself as part of the German school, like a Hollywood blockbuster.

His production is made like a Hollywood film. He always has three or four assistants and gives instructions while sitting off stage," Monaco said. "I used to produce operas with a limited investment, because when I was working in Germany, the country was still recovering from the war. I had to make the performance attractive."

**"It was a smart move for me not to sing on stage. I would never outshine my father, who was a famous tenor throughout Europe. If I became a tenor, I would only have been known as Monaco's son."**

**"I used to produce operas with a limited investment, because when I was working in Germany, the country was still recovering from World War II. It was up to me to make the performance attractive."**

Monaco arranges four scenes in his version. On the stage, he presents an old church with sloping pillars, which symbolizes the threat of Napoleon's invasion on the verge of destruction.

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The sloping pillars symbolize the Kingdom of Naples, then on the verge of destruction.



Jealousy advances the plot.



Giancarlo del Monaco (left) is passionate and energetic during rehearsal.



### Puccini's Opera: Tosca (NCPA Production)

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang an Jie, Xichang District  
When: May 12-15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 160-800 yuan  
Tel: 6635 0000



# Baseball legend's rise from rags to riches

By Charles Zhu

Twenty days in the life of Mickey Mantle, an All-American Boy in the eyes of his fans, are intensely scrutinized by Jane Leavy in her biography *The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood*.

Almost paradoxically, the baseball superhero embodied man's worst vices: heavy drinking, voyeurism and extreme rudeness.

"How do you write about a man you want to love the way you did as a child but whose actions were often unlovable? How do you reclaim a human being from caricature without allowing him to be fully human?" Leavy wrote in the preface.

Mantle had a Dickensian childhood near a toxic waste dump of lead, zinc and mining debris in Commerce, Oklahoma. Leavy suggests those chemicals might have induced Mantle's dyslexia and may be more directly responsible for his fatal liver cancer than his heavy drinking.

The author tries hard to balance the idol so many had grown up worshipping with the image of the fatally flawed Mantle many still refuse to recognize.

Leavy spent more than five years looking for what constitutes "The Mick." She interviewed more than 500 people and spoke to teammates, opponents, family, friends, doctors, business associates, fans and reporters. She found that their love for Mantle was rooted in their acceptance of his fatal flaws.

Leavy deals fairly with Mantle's exploits. She hopes to humanize the player. Without excusing the drinking, the womanizing and the rudeness, she speaks frankly about this

son of an Oklahoma miner in both public and private life. His father Mutt, who groomed his son as a ballplayer, died young, like so many of Mantle's relatives. Mickey believed he too wouldn't live past 40, which gave him reason to abuse a body he wouldn't need for long after his playing days concluded.

Mantle battled alcoholism and addiction. He had apologized for all the ways he let his wife and boys down before checking into the Betty Ford Center. Mantle remained sober for the last year and a half of his life.

But the damage had been done to both his body and his relationships.

It wasn't too late, however, for him to begin making amends. At a press conference, he told America's children "Don't be like me."

Mantle was renowned for playing with pain. He played with an abscess the size of a baseball on his backside in 1961. However, he managed only six at-bats in the World Series that year, lining one hit, after which he was removed for a pinch-runner. American fans saw a warrior valiantly attempting to play through pain. They didn't know about his infidelities with a long string of women that were lined up like a batting queue.

The author corrects one of his legendary home runs, the 1953 blast in Washington that was reported to have traveled 565 feet before landing in the backyard of a home across the street from Griffith Stadium. It was declared the longest home run ever measured – even though it was never actually measured.

The reporter who fabricated the tape measure shot didn't actually use a tape measure. Nor did he

see where the ball landed. Leavy tracked down the boy who recovered the ball, and with the help of a physics professor she recreated the legendary hit. Their conclusion: the ball probably traveled as far as 540 feet – 25 feet shy of the legend.

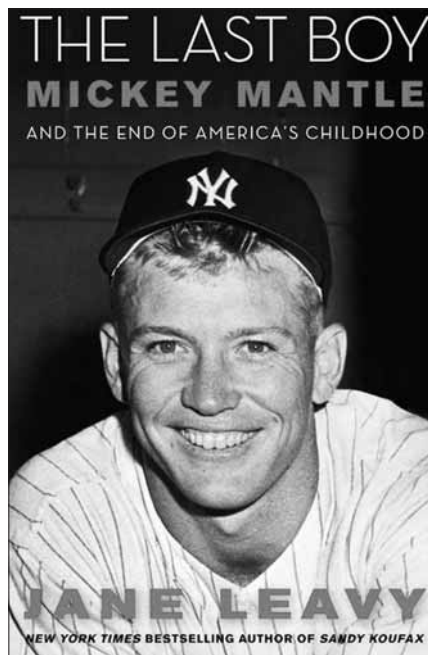
Mantle had his glorious runs and days. Leavy recalls a day in June 1969 when the Yankees decided to retire Mantle's uniform number in front of 60,096 fans on the bleachers.

"He had watched Gary Cooper deliver Lou Gehrig's farewell address in *The Pride of the Yankees*. Now he was standing in the same spot, invoking Gehrig's parting words: 'I always wondered how a man who knew he was going to die could stand here and say he was the luckiest man in the world. Now I think I know how Lou Gehrig felt.'"

"What was lost in all the huzzahs attendant to the occasion – was that he cast himself as a dying man. In fact, he was already planning his funeral."

In the final chapter Leavy discusses Mantle's failed liver transplant. She talked with doctors who recognized too late that he was a poor fit for a new liver, as his cancer had already spread to neighboring organs. Mantle died two months later, surrounded by the wife he had abused so much and a son he had only finally begun to befriend after so many years of estrangement.

Leavy writes: "I cannot predict how his loved ones will receive this effort. I hope they feel I kept my promise to reclaim him from caricature. The way I look at it, after everything The Mick did for me, the least I could do was try to return his humanity to him in full."



**The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood**

By Jane Leavy, 480pp, Harper, \$27.99

## CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

### Have You Seen Her

By Karen Rose, 512pp, Forever, \$4.99

Special Agent Steven Thatcher has a lot on his hands. Not only is there a serial killer on the prowl at local high schools, but Thatcher's teenage son Brad is suddenly acting up and failing in school. His schoolteacher, Jenna Marshall, is also worried about Brad. As their conversations about the troubled teen increase and grow more intimate, Jenna and Steven soon find they are falling for each other, though they tread cautiously as both carry hidden wounds of their own.

### Clean Kill: A Sniper Novel

By Jack Coughlin, 416pp, St. Martin's Paperbacks, \$9.99

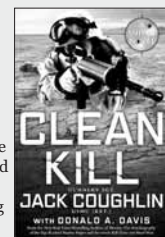
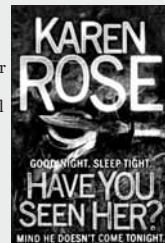
Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and the Israeli Foreign Minister are scheduled to sign a historic peace treaty ... until their meeting is interrupted by a missile strike that leaves the minister dead and the prince injured. Gunner Sergeant Kyle Swanson is running covert missions in the mountains of Pakistan when he is immediately called to the UK, where he thwarts another attempt on the Saudi prince's life.

### Marketing Management in China

By Philip Kotler, Kevin Lane Keller and Lu Taihong, 736pp, Pearson Education, \$139.15

This landmark work of marketing gurus Philip Kotler and Kevin Lane Keller comes to China for the first time. The edition, adapted by Professor Lu Taihong of Zhongshan University, takes a journey into a truly Chinese vista of marketing management. This adaptation provides hard-to-find domestic cases that offer insights while covering a wide variety of contexts, spanning international companies operating in China to Chinese companies that are beginning to venture overseas.

(By He Jianwei)



## Nostalgia for a simpler life

By He Jianwei

Tibet is a shelter of the soul, for urbanites fed up with a fast-paced life. It is also the fountainhead of inspiration for artists and writers.

Photojournalist Chai Chunya's debut novel, *The Silent Song of Magic Spell*, depicts a man tired of his job and marriage in a city who flees to live a wandering existence in Tibet. It was published by Shanghai People's Press in January.

The story is based on Chai's experience in the Tibetan region. In 2005, he left *Southern Weekly* to become a primary school teacher in the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province. He stayed at the school for one year teaching Chinese, mathematics, English, music and sports to 30 Tibetan students.

"Besides these classes, we also had to learn to build stone homes, herd yaks and plant plateau barley. I became one of the herdsmen, celebrating their religious festivals and living with the seasons," Chai said in a lecture about his journey at Renmin University on April 7.

Born in a village in the west of



**The Silent Song of Magic Spell**

By Chai Chunya, 239pp, Shanghai People's Press, 25 yuan

Gansu Province, Chai grew up in a farming and pastoral area. Animals were his toys and friends in childhood.

"I rode horses, cows, sheep and pigs. I raised rabbits, ravens, orioles, hoopoe and chipmunks. My

world was close to nature, but I couldn't relate to the work of contemporary writers," he said. "They described people and dealt with complicated issues, but they never took time to describe a plant, a beast or a bird."

His experience in Tibet reminded him of his own childhood.

He described the Tibetans' lifestyle as one like his forefathers: "It is a kind of ancient way of life – simple and pure – which has been inherited by each generation regardless of language, ethnic group or religion," he said.

Although he had no relatives or friends on the prairie, he said he did not feel lonely because the Tibetan families treated him as one of their own. "It made me remember how my grandmother always took in orphans and mentally disabled people in my childhood. But no one is willing to help others like that in the cities," he said.

After his return from the Tibetan area, he described a new-found sensitivity and sympathy for people in distress and nature. He said he hoped readers could come away from his book with an appreciation for these virtues.

# Online radio a stream of alternative voices



Tangsuan Radio



Zhang Youdai, founder of All That Jazz

Bad FM



**Program:** All That Jazz  
**Platform:** iTunes Podcast; Douban

If dance and rock ever break into the Chinese musical mainstream, DJ Zhang Youdai will be one of the top names in the entertainment market.

Apart from running the famous Cloud 9 and Tango clubs, Zhang is best known for his numerous alternative music radio programs over the last two decades on Beijing Music Radio Station.

He was the first DJ to bring a large number of big Western acts to China, including Leeroy from Prodigy and the indie act Suede. His FM program on China Nation Radio in 1990 was named Foreign Music One Hour.

"I first learned about Michael Jackson and Madonna from his program when I was in middle school," said Chen Yang, founder of Michael Jackson's official Chinese website.

"Unfortunately, the program existed for only one year," Zhang

said. "It died because it aired too many free opinions and diverse content that didn't fit neatly into some mainstream genre."

In 1991, after learning about Game Theory, he started his own new genre radio programs within the traditional framework. He first opened "New Rock Magazine" to introduce world-famous rock music. Later, when jazz experienced a worldwide comeback, he opened "Midnight Blues".

At the same time, he also ran Dance FM to introduce dance music, "Soundtrack of My Life" with live talk shows and "God Is a DJ", introducing famous DJs from around the world. All the shows experienced high ratings.

"But nowadays my time on the radio is limited because the audience is too small. I wanted to air more diversified music in a program where I could speak my own opinions and interact with listeners. It had to be something without fixed time periods or a commercial agenda that required me to manipulate billboard hits," Zhang said.

In China, DJs and music program hosts are not allowed to interview singers and musicians. All programs are required to be commercialized. All contents from new

albums and new singers that are aired are actually paid promotions.

"DJs and hosts cannot say what they want to say and cannot comment on what they want to comment," Zhang said.

In 2009, inspired by his own DJ idols John Peel and Steve Lamacq, Zhang opened his own station, All That Jazz, on iTunes's Podcast. He also began re-streaming it on Douban's DJ section.

He uses the online platform to upload programs that contain an assortment of jazz, blues, pop, rock, dance and classical music, as well as interviews with the musicians and Youdai's Journals. All the content is free to download.

"I think I want to keep private. I can be a real DJ when I'm online - I don't think there is even one real DJ on the radio anymore. Radio only has hosts. As a radio host, I only choose music. I don't get to talk. If people like me, it only means they like the order I choose to play pre-selected music. Online I can be a real DJ," he said.

Of course, even with commercial radio the world is much different from the one he grew up in. During the 1970s, the only content on television or radio was old revolutionary songs, he said. Today's youth have many more choices.

"If my efforts help to introduce a little color to the spectrum of broadcast music, I would feel it was a great achievement," he said. These days he is focused on dance music, which he says is "the future of music."

express their ideas about music.

"Guests are welcomed to say whatever they want - the sharper the better - except foul language," Demone said.

Demone is the cornerstone of Tangsuan Radio and responsible for its audio production and website management. A professional graphic designer and photographer, his works are featured on the album covers of many mainstream singers.

The other program is "Tangsuan Loves Party," which features non-stop live music and dance mixes. The program is intended to promote the electronic music underground. By cooperating with promoters and clubs, it brings the most current international electro to listeners.



**Program:** Tangsuan Radio Platform: iTunes Podcast

Established in 2004 by Demone Liu and Stanley Zhao, Tangsuan Radio was initially an online radio for friends to share music. It has the distinction of being the country's first non-government radio website.

The station promotes European and American pop, jazz, rock, electro, dance and hip-hop. It also features live talk shows devoted to Chinese rock and local musicians.

The station is currently carrying three programs.

"Tangsuan Do Re Mi," the founding program, introduces world pop and electro music as well as Chinese alternative.

"Tangsuan Microwave" is a live interview program that started in 2006 and focuses on interviews with music and entertainment industry insiders such as singers, producers, performance planners, DJs, dancers, fashion icons and street artists.

Instead of using the official interview questions provided by record companies and agencies, Demone and Stanley aim to dig out less-known facts and opinions. The interviewees, in return, can fully



**Program:** Bad FM Platform: Douban

As its name may suggest, Bad FM is on the fringes of online radio.

The station plays music from outside the mainstream, as well as tongue-twister-style talk shows by Wang Shuo and Wu Sanwuwu, the founders and spiritual leaders of the station.

Unlike other online music programs, which follow a format similar to their traditional counterparts, Bad FM's programs twist together tongue-twister shows with musician introductions. They speak casually in a relaxed Beijing accent, and profanity abounds.

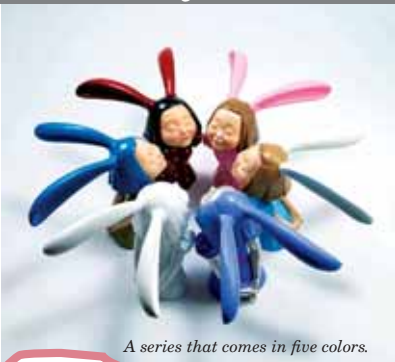
In addition to the music, Bad FM also airs the behind-the-scenes gossip of the hosts when a song is playing. Their programs are as popular for their music selection as their entertainment value.





# Art for life

## The city's best art shops



A series that comes in five colors.

### A gift to both customers and society

Two Chinese leading sculpture artists, Xiang Jing and Qu Guangci, opened an art store called X+Q at Park Life Shopping Center last Wednesday.

All the products are recreations of the artists' original works. Most are handcrafted and, for the limited edition items, come with the artists' signatures.

There are currently five product series. The first is called "I Have Seen Happiness" – a girl with bunny ears. There are 999 of these pieces painted in five colors – sky blue, pink, green, red and silver – each costing at least 3,000 yuan. A pure white version of the same item costs 2,800 yuan.

"The bunny girl, in her innocence, reminds us to not forget how to have a good time," Xiang said.

There is also a "Bunny Guy" series, which comes in 10 different colors.

In another series, "Standing on High," the artists sculpt a couple wearing a Lenin suit, instantly recognizable for older generations. These come in six colors, each costing 3,800 yuan.

"An entire generation of people dressed the same

way, with the same eager expression in their eyes," Xiang said. "The effects of those years had a great influence on the present, so this is a gift we're giving back to our fathers and mothers."

The last two series are "Rainbow Angels" and "Immortal Peaches and Cake," with pieces going for 3,300 yuan in each. The former consists of an elderly couple with angelic wings. In the latter, a little guy stands on a cake with cunning smile holding several peaches.

The artists promise that in the future, X+Q sales will be donated to the public – a gift for younger generations.

#### X+Q Sculpture Studio

Where: B46, Park Life Shopping Center, Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 9:30 pm

Cost: around 3,000 yuan per item

Tel: 8517 1747



Motorbike helmet, price to be determined Photos provided by UCCA



Ceramic kitchenware, starting from 2,000 yuan



Inside UCCA

### A market for young artists

As the in-house store of Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), the UCCASTORE brings together works from more than 40 Chinese contemporary artists and 50 cutting-edge designers.

No other art store in China offers such a broad range of limited edition lithography, photography, sculpture, ceramics and installation work by the big names of Chinese contemporary art, including Fang Lijun, Zhang Xiaogang, Wang Guangyi and Liu Xiaodong. These artists form part of the backbone of contemporary art in China.

The space also has room for young designers. With more than 1,000 items of furniture, clothing, jewelry and electronic gadgets, the store aims to enhance people's lives through creativity and innovative design.

Because UCCA is a non-profit organization, all of the proceeds from the store are used to support the center's exhibitions, lectures, events and educational programs.

#### UCCASTORE

Where: 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Cost: 100-440,000 yuan

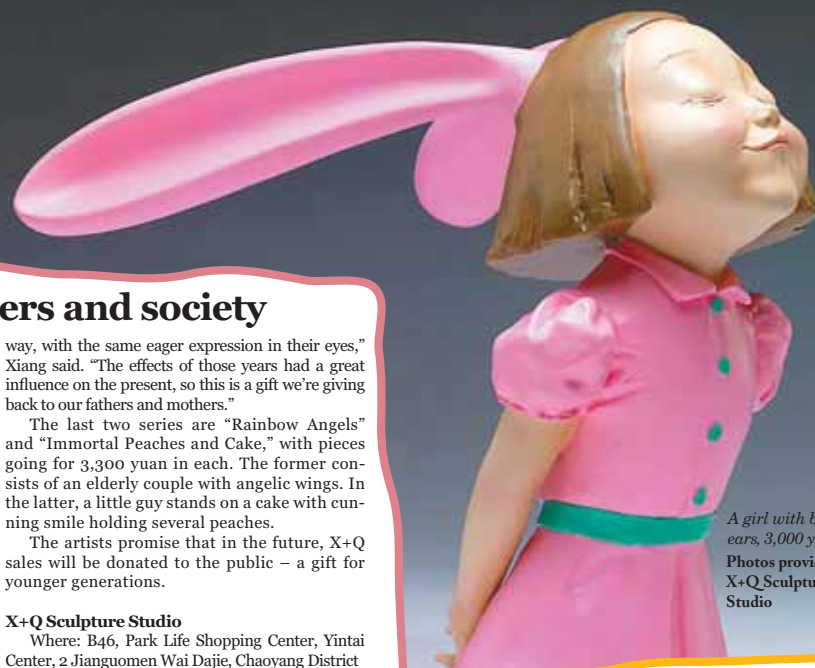
Tel: 8610 8171

By He Jianwei

With each record-breaking price that a piece of Chinese contemporary artwork fetches, art seems to move a little further from the mainstream.

But art shops are determined to reverse the auction-house trend and bring art to the public.

Many Chinese artists have produced prints, sculptures, photographs and other daily commodities, perfect for people looking for a way to inject their homes with a bit of creative flair.



A girl with bunny ears, 3,000 yuan  
Photos provided by X+Q Sculpture Studio

### Art changes life

Inside the White Box Art Center in a Bauhaus building in 798 Art District, an art shop stocks a range of original and limited edition artworks, including sculpture, installation, oil painting, print-making and photography.

It sells Dunhuang murals – hard to find elsewhere – art made during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), providing valuable information and material for research on ancient Chinese politics, economy, military and culture.

The smallest costs around 30,000 yuan, and the largest goes for as much as 180,000 yuan.

"We believe that art changes life," said Li Weiwei, the public relations manager of the art center. "Besides the artworks, we also sell works designed for daily life, such as notebooks, chopsticks, vases, bags and cups."

#### White Box Art Shop

Where: 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 6 pm

Cost: 300 – 180,000 yuan

Tel: 6438 6903



Inside White Box Art Shop

Photo provided by White Box Art Shop

# Spicy river-lake cuisine

By Annie Wei

Sanyangcai, which opened last week, is the biggest restaurant near Workers Stadium, offering delicious *jianghu* cuisine.

Jianghu means, literally, rivers and lakes, but in culinary use refers to the cuisine popular among people living along the Yangtze River in Sichuan Province.

The restaurant's name, literally, means "three dishes." The three dishes are: gan-shao shanduan (68 yuan), dry-braised eel; suancai niqiu (68 yuan), pickle and eel; and shuizhu meiwa (78 yuan), boiled frog in chili sauce.

All three dishes are highly recommended. The dried-braised eel absorbs all the sauces, making it quite salty and extremely spicy. Eel cooked with pickle tastes tender, sour and sweet, and is favored by lots of diners. The boiled frog is also very delicious, though it comes in a fiery stew.

If you'd prefer avoiding the spices, we recommend plum soup (58 yuan), which soothes your tongue and mouth. The congjiaoji (38 yuan), broiled chicken in minced scallions and fresh Sichuan peppers, is also good.

Mijiao liangfen (16 yuan) – small Sichuan chili and rice noodles – is a great starter.

For vegetables, doutang wandoumiao (38 yuan) is special soup and not available elsewhere. The soup comes with mashed peas and fresh pea sprouts and tastes sweet.

In Chinese fiction, jianghu is a term referring to a community of people independent from the government who possess excellent martial arts skills and fight for common people who are treated unfairly by corrupt officials or evil bureaucrats.

The restaurant is decorated in a traditional style and is very spacious. It serves beer and juice in bowls instead of glasses. You are expected to speak loudly, go bottoms-up on liquor and play traditional table games.

Until May 20, the restaurant will offer a 12-percent discount and free beer to those who print its coupon from dianping.com. Be sure to confirm with servers which beers are free.

## Sanyangcai

Where: North gate of Workers Stadium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6552 3499

Cost: Average 80 yuan per person



Dry-braised eel, 68 yuan



Mashed peas and fresh pea sprouts soup, 38 yuan



Broiled chicken in minced scallions and fresh Sichuan peppers, 38 yuan

Photos by Yu Tingmei

## New quality seafood eatery

By Annie Wei

The restaurant Huanghuang, since opening last year at Houhai, has attracted many repeat customers who prefer homemade and high-quality seafood at reasonable prices.

Last month, it opened another outlet on Xiaoyun Lu in the Sanyuanqiao area.

The menu is all seafood dishes at affordable prices. Select dishes include steamed scallop with garlic (32 yuan), fried sea cucumber (38 yuan), shrimp meat with squid (32 yuan), sweet and sour prawns (38 yuan), steamed bass (48 yuan) and stir-fried squid with satay sauce (38 yuan).

We ordered fried clams (22 yuan) and dry-braised crab (56 yuan per crab). The clams were fat and fresh and had a natural sweetness. The crab dish is more complicated: vegetables such as asparagus lettuce and lotus roots are wrapped with flour and deep-fried, then dry-braised with sauces. Overall the taste was good, but the deep-frying makes it a bit dry.

### Huanghuang Haixian Xiaoguan

Where: 32 Xiaoyun Lu, Sanyuanqiao, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6463 3354

Where: 37 Beigongfang Hutong, Shishahai area, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 1352241377

Cost: Average 50 yuan per person



Fried clams, 22 yuan



Dry-braised crab, 56 yuan

Photos by Yu Tingmei

SAVOUR  
THE TASTE OF  
HANDCRAFTED  
COFFEE



COSTA COFFEE



# Traditional culture with modern looks

By He Jianwei

Taking five models, photographer Chen Man makes five different looks that symbolize the Five Elements: wood, fire, earth, metal and water.

Her first solo exhibition opened on April 23 at Today Art Museum. Chen roots China's modern development in its traditional culture, all the while reminding us

that there will be no further development to speak of if the earth is not nurtured.

Through *The Five Elements* series, Chen expresses her thoughts on the relationship between humans, society and nature. In the photo "Water," global warming is depicted as causing a glacier to melt.

In a series of photos called *The Four Great Heavenly Kings*, the artist pho-

tographs four models in the style of guardian gods in ancient legends.

In this series, every heavenly king – played by a model – symbolizes a different aspect of traditional Chinese culture. The King of the East wears like a tree that begins to bud, representing spring and its power of renewal.

The King of the South, wearing clothes with designs with honey, flower and bees, represents summer.

The King of the West is the king of harvest, often symbolized by gold, so Chen chose a Caucasian model and wrapped a golden snake around her arm.

And because the King of the North represents winter, the artist painted a model's skin black, symbolizing darkness.

"Chen leads us to consider the significance of tradition to China's astonishing modern development, and to understanding both sides of a story that has its successes and its appalling failures," curator Karen Smith said.



## Friday, April 29

### 5 Nightlife

**Mademoiselle et son Orchestre**

With six members from

Canada, France and Germany, this Beijing-based gypsy jazz band performs original and covers of French songs.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
advance purchase, 40 yuan at the door

Tel: 6401 5269

### Exhibition

**South Korean Artists in New Photography**

Photos by nine artists born after 1970 record the rapid development of South Korea in the past two decades.

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 12, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8458 8263

### Movie

**Revolutionary Road (2008)**

Adapted from the first novel by Richard Yates, this film portrays the tragedy of an American marriage in the 1950s, asking whether two people in a relationship can break away from the ordinary without breaking apart.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan  
Tel: 8229 6153



## Sunday, May 1

**Exhibition**  
**Dim Light on the Opposite Shore – Wei Jia Solo Exhibition**

Wei's works focus on two aspects: the first related to his life, especially relationships between men and women and between father and child; the second related to his feeling of humanity.

Where: Star Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 18, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9224

### Movie

**Double Indemnity (1944)**

This dark film is about an insurance salesman who is dragged into deception and murder when he falls in love with the wife of one of his clients.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District  
When: 6:30 pm  
Admission: 25 yuan, includ-

ing soft drink and popcorn  
Tel: 8404 4166

### Nightlife

**Zhao Zhao**

This indie rock and folk musician released his first folk album, *Dajingchang*, last year, looking back on his 10-year music career.

Where: Tiny Salt, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 9 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan

advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door  
Tel: 5900 0969



## Upcoming

### Nightlife

#### Nature Living

As a pioneer of post-hardcore and post-emo, this Japanese band released its second full-length album, *Anonymous*, last August.  
Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: May 3, 8:30 pm  
Admission: 80 yuan advance purchase, 100 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6402 5080

## Stage in May

### Concert

**Anne-Sophie Mutter Violin Recital**

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,080 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Peter Ritzen Piano Recital

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-580 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc Choir

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District  
When: April 8, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-580 yuan  
Tel: 6417 7845

### Piotr Anderszewski Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 28, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Dance

**Offering / Fragrance presented by Beijing Modern Dance Company**

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 18-19, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-400 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Drama

#### Butterfly Metamorphosis

Where: Fengchao Theater, 200 meters east of Oriental Ginza, 12 Shizipo, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 3-15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-200 yuan  
Tel: 8836 8265

#### He and His Two Wives

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 21, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-880 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Opera

#### Puccini's Opera: Tosca

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 12-15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-800 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

# Some foods look too good to be safe

By Chu Meng

Despite authorities' pledge to step up their inspection of the food industry, a new string of scandals has erupted.

Shanghai started the scare with its reports of steamed buns being dyed and sold past their expiration date. Then, only weeks ago, pork from the nation's largest meat processor was found to contain trace amounts of performance enhancing drugs.

And recently, like a ghost back from the past, the melamine toxin that sickened 300,000 children across the country in 2008 once again began appearing in baby food.

Bu Xianglan, a 56-year-old Beijinger and housewife of 20 years, is known in her family for being picky when shopping for ingredients.

She never buys strawberries that are not completely dark red and eschews cucumbers that lack yellow flowers and thorns. She spends three times more money buying Beijing Traditional Yogurt instead of cheaper equivalents.

But recent food safety scandals are making it even more difficult for her to ensure her family's food is safe and healthy.

## Food safety crises

On Monday, in the wake of a series of wide-ranging food and beverage scandals, a committee under the State Council published a list of 151 ingredients and additives that have been banned during the past nine years.

The blacklist, issued by the Food Safety Committee, lists 47 "inedible" materials that have been used in the production of food, 22 additives that are being abused and 82 substances forbidden for use in animal feed.

Tonyred, an industrial coloring agent, and "lean meat powder," more properly called ractopamine, were among the materials listed.

The Ministry of Agriculture and eight other central authorities kicked off a campaign that will continue into 2012 to stamp out the use of ractopamine. Inspection teams will visit 10 provinces to analyze the complete pork production.

"The 151-item blacklist was published on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture last Sunday. From now on, the government will take a heavy-handed approach to dealing with the nationwide problem of food safety," Vice-Premier Li Keqiang, head of the committee, said earlier this week at a press conference.

Domestic law provides for harsh punishments of individuals and companies responsible for producing or selling toxic or hazardous foods — capital punishment is one option before the courts.

Li said the Ministry of Health has published the forbidden additive list since 2008 and that the Ministry of Agriculture has published a list of substances banned from animal feed and water since 2002.

The State Council, the Ministry of Health and the State Food and Drug Administration also announced new measures to improve food safety. They plan to step up supervision, upgrade safety systems and raise the penalties for those who violate food safety rules.

Despite their announcement, the food safety situation appears to be worsening.

Li cited numerous new food safety scandals including the reappearance of melamine-tainted baby formula, steamed buns that had been dyed with unidentified chemicals, pork tainted with ractopamine and the reappearance of recycled cooking oils, commonly called "gutter oil."

All are examples of what he called widespread "moral deterioration."

"A country will never grow into a mighty and respected power without improvement of its people's lives and a moral conscience," he said.

Chen Junshi, a representative of the Global Food Safety Forum that opened last Sunday in Beijing, said that the government needs to address food safety problems directly. He criticized the government for latching onto minor issues to evade the bigger root issue of corruption.

"Legislation and morality are two approaches to resolving issues such as food safety. The efforts will not be successful if the government emphasizes one and neglects the other," Chen said.



CFP Photo

## Consumer education required

"Chinese people are known for loving their food ... But this string of scandals over the past few years has done much to undermine people's confidence in food safety," said Fan Zhihong, a nutrition and food safety professor at China Agricultural University.

She said manufacturers often put in too many additives such as food colorings and spices during the manufacturing process to improve the look, scent or taste of food.

According to a recent survey conducted by the Well-off Society Research Center and Tsinghua Media Survey Laboratory, 70 percent of respondents said they feel insecure about food safety, and almost 16 percent felt "extremely insecure."

Many of those who feel most powerless are housewives like Bu and the parents of young children.

## Additives not all bad

The modern food industry is built on the basis of food additives.

Consumers expect food to be safe, tasty, convenient and time-saving. The old laborious process of family production is essentially impossible to achieve on a large scale.

Fan said food additives are not the devil. "If it were not for some additives, most food in the market

In addition to criticizing the amoral food manufacturers, Fan also blamed domestic consumers like Bu, saying "it was Chinese consumers' longtime incorrigible pursuit of attractive foods with no regard for their own health and safety that contributed to the current problems."

"Healthy produce does not have to look beautiful. Safe and nutritious processed foods in the grocery store are not usually bright and colorful. If people prefer cheap and beautiful products to healthy ones, then a company would be stupid to continue to produce expensive but healthy foods," she said.

She said Chinese consumers are far behind in the modern industry of mass food production. The industry laces almost everything with additives. Tens of thousands of these are legal and commonly permitted by

the European Union and US Food and Drug Administration, as well as the Ministry of Health of China.

"However, most people lack basic knowledge of how many additives they are eating, and few manufacturers are willing to properly list all the additives on their labels," she said.

Fan said many consumers are only just now learning how to differentiate natural fruit juice from fruit-flavored beverages.

"The fact is, most fruit drinks do not count fruit among their ingredients — they are primarily water, sugar and artificial flavoring. They have no nutritional significance, even though the bottle is branded with words like 'natural' and 'fresh.' And these are what grandparents buy their grandchildren after school: they assume they are healthy alternatives to soda," she said.

would be hideous, expensive and difficult to preserve."

In fact, the government is comparatively strict in its requirements for approved food additives. Under normal use, approved additives will not cause an adverse reaction. Without additives, it would be impossible for processed foods to last long enough to survive transportation and sale.

China's industrialization of its food supply began 20 years ago. That is a short time to establish a safe and reliable food safety system. As more food is industrialized and demand skyrockets, more and more additives are appearing in foods. Most of these are approved, safe and harmless.

It's the ones that sneak by that consumers have to worry about.

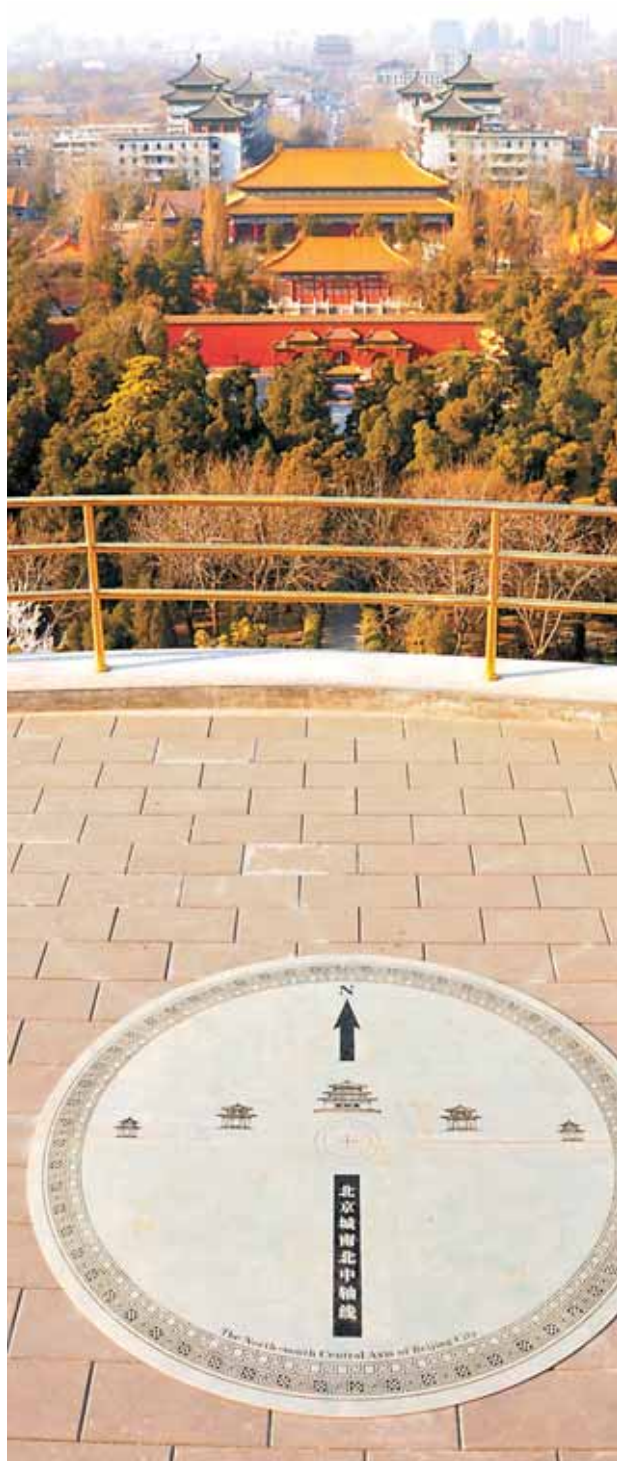


# Exploring imperial culture in Dongcheng

By Zhang Dongya

The annual Imperial Culture International Tourist Festival, which lasts until May 8, opened with a "grand heaven worship" ceremony at the Temple of Heaven earlier this month.

This is the third year the Dongcheng District government has organized the festival, in an attempt to introduce more places of interest – especially places with imperial culture – to visitors.



An emblem representing the "imperial axis" in Jingshan Park

CFP Photos



Yongdingmen, standing at the southern point of the central axis, was restored in 2004.

## An axis of beauty

Old Beijing was a planned city, symmetric and orderly: like the heavens. The most outstanding bit of planning is the 7.8-kilometer "imperial axis," which extends from Yongdingmen in the south to Zhonggulou – the Drum and Bell Tower – to the north.

Liang Sicheng, a renowned Chinese architect, once said that "the unique and grand layout of Beijing" was formed with the axis as the foundation.

Old Beijing had 16 gates, with nine in the inner city and seven in the outer city. Yongdingmen was once the largest of the outer gates, built during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties and restored in 2004.

Its classic gate tower with extended walls stands at the southern point of the axis. The large square in front of the gate is a gathering place for people out to stroll, exercise and fly kites. The street that runs north from Yongdingmen leads to Zhengyangmen – more commonly called Qianmen.

Qianmen Street, at 840 meters long, is the most important portion of the imperial axis. The commercial street of Qianmen was renovated to be Beijing's next Wangfujing, a place for tourists to try street foods and Old Beijing noodles and shop for modern-day luxury items alongside time-honored brands.

Tian'anmen Square is the next attraction, the largest city square in the world. Just north of that, of course, is the Forbidden City: visitors pass through the gates Duanmen, Wumen – or Meridian Gate – and Taihemen, then Taihe Hall, Zhonghe Hall, Baohe Hall and Shewumen.

The Drum and Bell Tower (Gulou), at the northern end of the axis, was used as the city's official clock. The old tower still booms during New Year's and Spring Festival.

Walking Gulou Boulevard in the morning or evening, you feel as if you've returned to another time. People gather at the square between the two towers and practice taichi and swordplay. Stores around the area sell traditional snacks, and bars around the area offer the perfect ending for a day of work.

Continued on page 21...



The Altar of Land and Grain changed its name to Zhongshan Hall after Sun Yatsen's coffin was temporarily placed in the hall.



In Ming City Wall Ruins Park, one can find a well-preserved section of a Ming city wall.



The commercial street of Qianmen is now a place for both modern-day luxury items and time-honored brands.





The annual Imperial Culture International Tourist Festival opened with a "grand heaven worship" ceremony at the Temple of Heaven. Photo by Zhang Xiaoliang



The Ancient Observatory, the imperial observatory during Ming and Qing CFP Photos

...continued from page 20

## Imperial destinations

Ming City Wall Ruins Park is highly recommended because here one can find a section of a Ming city wall. The Ming city wall, which was built in 1419, was about 40 kilometers. The only part that remains is a 1.5-kilometer section from Chongwenmen to Dongnan Jiaolou, which is where the park is, with trees and flowers planted around it.

Getting there: Take Buses 41, 43, 44, 59, 610, 713 or 820 to Dongbianmen.

Admission: Free

The Altar of Land and Grain, located west of Tian'anmen, is the place where Ming and Qing emperors worshipped the God of Land and God of Grains. Baidian, or the Hall of Warship, was where emperors rested or took shelter from rain.

When Dr. Sun Yatsen's coffin was temporarily placed in the hall after he died in 1925, the name was changed to Zhongshan Hall. The park around the Altar of Land and Grain is the popular Zhongshan Park.

The Garden with the Altar of Land and Grain is famous for the old cypress

trees inside. There are seven ancient cypresses beside Laijin Yuxuan Restaurant, all of them more than one thousand years old. Some of the trunks are more than six meters around.

Getting there: Take Buses 10, 20, 52, 57, 120 or 802 to Tian'anmen or take Subway Line 1 to Tian'anmen West Station.

Admission: 3 yuan

On the east side of Tian'anmen is the Imperial Ancestral Temple, the family temple of Ming and Qing emperors. Now it was changed to Working People's Cultural Palace, a center for occupational training, entertainment and cultural activities.

Getting there: Take Buses 1, 4, 52, 57, 120 or 802 to Tian'anmen or Subway Line 1 to Tian'anmen East Station.

Admission: 2 yuan

Other destinations include the Ancient Observatory, which was the imperial observatory during Ming and Qing. The Lama Temple and Confucius Temple are also part of Dongcheng District and popular tourist destinations.



The axis extends to Gulou in the north. It is an ideal place for old Beijingers to practice taichi and watch birds. Photo by Wang Xibao



Many hotels around the Forbidden City offer terrace views of the royal palace complex.

## Hotels near the Forbidden City

### Grand Hotel

Adjacent to the Imperial Palace and Tian'anmen Square, this hotel has a terrace where visitors can have a full view of the Forbidden City. Its interior decoration is in the style of royal courts from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

### Beijing Hotel

Located on Chang'an Avenue, Beijing Hotel is very near the Imperial Palace. It has 15 Imperial Place View Rooms where guests can get a complete view of the ancient royal palace.

### The Emperor

This hotel is located on the eastern side of the Forbidden City. All the royal rooms are named after Chinese emperors. On its big terrace, one can enjoy dinner while glancing at the Imperial Palace.

### Days Inn Forbidden City

A three-minute walk from Tian'anmen Square, this Days Inn is in an incredible location. The hotel is inside a garden, which was once the northern warlord Jiang Chaozong's house. With old trees and ancient buildings, it offers a tranquil environment in the center of the city.



## Hotel

### Treat your mom to The Ritz-Carlton Spa

Pamper your mom with our remarkable Firming Neck & Bust Treatment, a traditional acupuncture procedure to restore suppleness and elasticity to the neck and bust area, restoring a more youthful neck and décolleté.

The Firming Neck & Bust Treatment is offered at a special price of 550 yuan throughout May. All prices are subject to a 15 percent gratuity charge.

Located on the top floor of The Ritz-Carlton, the spacious Spa is contemporary, yet designed with comfort and relaxation in mind. The Spa is divided into Ladies and Gentlemen resting areas. It features 10 treatment rooms with six single treatment rooms, one couples' suite that comes with a Balinese massage bed and a color hydrotherapy bathtub, a Nail Bar, one Vichy Shower room and an Aqua Bed room. The colors of the suite are aqua blue paired with leather in the men's salon and a warm persimmon shade in the women's salon.

Where: The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 5908 8080  
Email: rc.bjsrz.restaurant.reservation@ritzcarlton.com

### Shangri-La Hotel, Manzhouli opens on April 15

Shangri-La Asia opened its new Shangri-La Hotel, Manzhouli, on April 15. The northeastern city shares a 54-kilometer border with Russia and is China's busiest border crossing. Shangri-La

Hotel, Manzhouli is the group's third hotel in Inner Mongolia, following sister properties in Hohhot and Baotou.

Shangri-La Hotel, Manzhouli is a short stroll from the main shopping and entertainment district, 20 minutes from the airport and within a 5-minute drive of the railway station.

To celebrate the opening, Shangri-La Hotel, Manzhouli is offering an introductory rate of 688 yuan for its superior rooms before June 30. The rate includes service charges and government tax for single or double occupancy, and includes daily breakfast for two and a welcome fruit basket.

For reservations at Shangri-La Hotel, Manzhouli, contact the hotel at 4703187138 or e-mail reservations.slmz@shangri-la.com.

### Get in shape at Oxygen Club

The Grand Millennium Beijing's signature health club in the heart of downtown Beijing has trained fitness experts ready to help you shape up. Located on the third and fourth floors, with a 25-meter indoor heated swimming pool, world class gym and the MTM spa located on the second floor, the club is an ideal spot for busy business executives. Join the club before August 31 and enjoy a 20 percent discount on membership.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District  
Cost: individual membership, 18,000 yuan per person; family, 26,000 yuan per card; corporate (4 or more adults), 15,000 yuan per person  
Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 5116  
Email: raymond.li@grandmillenniumbeijing.com

## Dining



### Mother's Day brunch at Hopfenstube

Hopfenstube is celebrating Mother's Day. Come in for a country style brunch made of fresh, seasonal, local ingredients and seafood, as well as free house-brewed wheat, dark and lager beers and our specialty Amber Ale.

All mothers at the brunch will be entered in a raffle for a one-night weekend stay at one of Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town's superior rooms with two breakfasts.

Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, 3 Sanfeng North Area, (South of Prime Tower), Chaoyang District

When: May 8, 11 am — 2 pm

Cost: 288 yuan per person, includes free house beers and soft drinks. Kids under 12 eat free.

Tel: 5909 6683



### Treat your mom to One East's Sunday Special

This Mother's Day, pamper your mom with the special treat of an exquisite lunch and carefree afternoon at One East's Sunday Roast Special!

The fabulous three-course set menu features a delightful array of American family favorites with a modern twist. Start with a delicious selection of starters and soups made from the freshest ingredients; then get your taste buds flowing with unlimited servings of tender prime roast beef rib served right at your table. The meal ends with most some of the irresistible, imaginative and sweet desserts.

All mothers will receive a complimentary welcome drink and chocolates. Come and celebrate the day at One East!

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dong Sanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 8, noon — 3 pm

Cost: 198 yuan per person, add 98 yuan per person for wine and beer buffet (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5030

## Airline



### Singapore Airlines to serve Los Angeles from July

Singapore Airlines will begin using an Airbus A380 superjumbo on its Singapore-Tokyo Narita-Los Angeles route from July 1.

The launch, initially scheduled for March 27, was postponed following the March 11 earthquake in Sendai, Japan. Los Angeles will be the eighth destination in the Singapore Airlines network to receive A380 services.



### Borie Manoux wine dinner at Blu Lobster

Join us for an exceptional evening of wine, food and company on a one-night-only Borie Manoux wine dinner of five red wines, including Chateau Batailley Grand Cru Classe Pauillac 2006, Chateau Baret Pessac Léognan 2006, Chateau Lynch Moussas Grand Cru Classé Pauillac 2004, Chateau Trote Vieille Saint-Emilion AOC Grand Cru 2006 and Chateau Lynch Moussas Grand Cru Classé Pauillac 2006.

The event will be hosted by Philippe Casteja, owner and President of Commanderie de Bordeaux, who has flown in from Bordeaux for the evening.

The night is a rare opportunity to explore three complex and interesting wines from the vineyards of Borie Manoux, the biggest family-owned French winery and wine merchant with more than 10 chateaux in the region, including Chateau Trote Vieille Saint-Emilion AOC Grand Cru, Chateau Baret Pessac Léognan AOC 2004 and Chateau Lynch Moussas Grand Cru Classé Pauillac.

Where: Blu Lobster, Shangri-La Beijing, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: May 8, 7 pm

Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 6572

(By Jackie Zhang)

# Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

# Prince disease

By Annie Wei

Last Tuesday, while I was struggling with an assignment, I got a call from Echo Lee, CEO of a global manufacture consulting firm in Shanghai.

"Hey, this is Echo. I am in Beijing, meeting my bosses," she said. "Do you have time for dinner tonight?"

I was so glad that she called. Although we hadn't seen each other for nine years, when she left for business school in the US, I'll always think of her as an elder sister of mine from when I was in my early-20s.

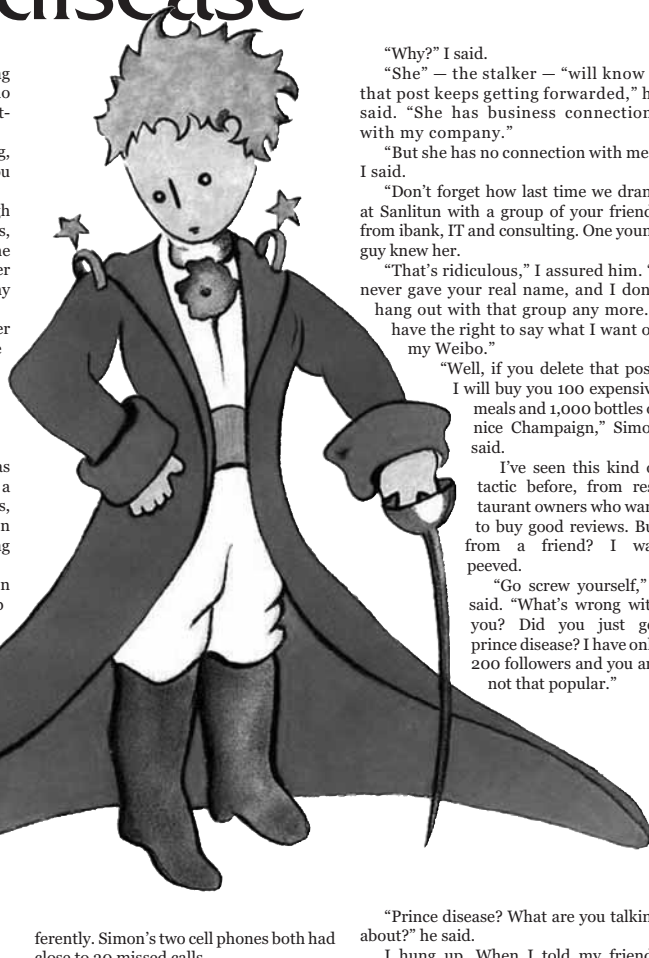
But my deadline! I thought it over before deciding that I needed to see her, since she was in town for one night only.

We met at D-Lounge at 9 pm. She came with her cousin, Simon Lee, who lives in Beijing.

Nine years ago, the lovely Simon was our bodyguard and driver. Now as a successful businessman in his early-30s, Simon is still gracious when he's out on the town, picking up bills and driving people around if needed.

When Echo suggested that Simon should settle down soon, I couldn't help but gossip: I had heard from a close friend that he has a long list of ex-girlfriends.

"Oh, he even has a stalker now," I said. In the past 14 months, I'd seen Simon ignore phone calls just about every time



ferently. Simon's two cell phones both had close to 30 missed calls.

Late at night, I updated a post about "crazy stalker" on my Weibo because I thought it was hilarious, though I spoke in generalities.

The next morning, there were eight messages, left by mutual friends who knew exactly who and what I was talking about.

But while I was having my bit of fun, Simon called and told me to delete the post.

"Why?" I said.

"She" — the stalker — "will know if that post keeps getting forwarded," he said. "She has business connections with my company."

"But she has no connection with me," I said.

"Don't forget how last time we drank at Sanlitun with a group of your friends from ibank, IT and consulting. One young guy knew her."

"That's ridiculous," I assured him. "I never gave your real name, and I don't hang out with that group any more. I have the right to say what I want on my Weibo."

"Well, if you delete that post, I will buy you 100 expensive meals and 1,000 bottles of nice Champaign," Simon said.

I've seen this kind of tactic before, from restaurant owners who want to buy good reviews. But from a friend? I was peeved.

"Go screw yourself," I said. "What's wrong with you? Did you just get prince disease? I have only 200 followers and you are not that popular."

"Prince disease? What are you talking about?" he said.

I hung up. When I told my friends about Simon's story, they laughed.

"Well, prince disease is not the correct phrase," a friend told me. "I think you meant prince syndrome, or princess syndrome — someone who overrates his or her popularity, thinking they're more important than others or more deserving of attention."

"Ah," I said. "Next time I'll just call him an attention whore."

# Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

## 1. Let's talk love.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD):** A few days ago, I came across this sentence. I was a little hesitant to verify whether it was all right or not. As a matter of fact, "to talk" can be used transitively and intransitively. Indeed, we have the expression "talk business." If we elaborate on it, we also have expressions such as "talk politics," "talk philosophy," "talk horse" and "talk French." "Talk horse" means talking about a horse race or talking big. "Talk French" means two people are speaking French. Can we say "talk love"? I'm not sure. The safest way is: Let's talk about love.

**Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ):** Of course "talk love" is fine. As for using prepositions such as "about": unfortunately, there's no easy way of learning them. Pay attention when you read, watch movies or listen to music. Soon you'll be able to "feel" your way along — at least with the prepositions, and maybe in love, too.

## 2. Money worship is permeating the society.

**ZSD:** Now here is another erroneous usage. You never use the definite article before "society" in this sense. You have to say: Money worship is permeating society, or perhaps more specifically, Money worship is permeating Chinese society. You cannot say: Money worship is permeating the Chinese society. Here is another example: The girl was introduced to polite society at a formal reception. However, I wish to restate that when you mean a specific group of people, you use the definite or indefinite article; for instance: a literary society, a musical society, a society of professionals, a high society.

**TBZ:** Think of it this way: "society" is too general — not specific enough — to take the definite article. Unless it is specified — one particular society is being talked about — you should leave out "the."

## 3. To gain the riches that entails.

**ZSD:** We all know the proverb "from rags to riches." The matter we have to consider here is whether the word "riches" is singular or plural. I checked the Word Book Dictionary and it tells us that it is plural. For instance: the exploitation of the earth's riches, natural riches, they are in search of adventure and riches. The sample sentence should be: To gain the riches that entail.

**TBZ:** This sentence may also be fixed by changing it to a singular noun instead: To gain the richness that entails.

## 4. Steamed buns were reported to have been sold expired and laced with coloring additives.

**ZSD:** This sentence is sophisticated and correct. I studied it from the grammatical point of view and it means that the steamed buns, expired, have been sold. However, the structure of "to have been sold expired" is not easy to read. If we wish to make it easier for readers, we may say: Steamed buns were reported to have been sold and were laced with coloring additives when they went beyond the expiration date.

**TBZ:** It is true that this sentence is difficult to read and there are many ways to fix it. The above example is not a good one. We may try rearranging: Steamed buns laced with coloring additives and expired were reported to have been sold. Or adding a clause: Steamed buns, which had expired and were laced with coloring additives, were reported to have been sold.

# Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Give me tranquility

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

This is what teachers hear and say during exam week. The students sweat, complain, and both sides plead, "Give me tranquility." However, I assure you that this sign was not placed outside my office. It uses the respectful form of "you" — *nin* — as opposed to *ni*.

After *nin*, the sign reads: *gei* (give), *wo* (me), *yi* (one, a), *fen* (portion, a measure word) — all characters that a person is likely to learn in an introductory Chinese class. Do yourself a favor — learn the character stroke order and write them correctly every time. This will improve your ability to remember them.

Also, pay attention to measure words



as well. Using the correct measure word will make your Chinese sound a bit more sophisticated, even if it isn't great. Instead of using *ge* for everything, by learning a word such as *fen*, you will avoid simple

grammar mistakes that make my students so anxious during exams.

Digichinese.com has a good list to start with. Yes, there are a lot of measure words in Chinese, but English has them too.

In Chinese, *fen* is used with portions, such as a serving of food, or multi-page documents, such as an IELTS exam, or when talking in general about a job. As you see here, *ningjing* (quiet or tranquility) also apparently comes in a portion and, if you give me quiet, as the first part of the sign states, I will song (give as a gift) you a portion of *qingcao*.

In other words, keep of the green grass, man. Beijing needs all the fragrant air — and tranquility — it can get!



# The Next Three Days

## Movie of the week

Though classified as a thriller, *The Next Three Days* delivers more than canned suspense. The movie keeps you thinking, revealing its details only little by little. Truthfully, it would be better classified as suspense, since the story does a good job of keeping you on the edge of your seat.

It also challenges your values: is it right or worthwhile for a desperate man to break his wife out of prison – even if he doesn't know whether she is innocent? The outcome is inspiring: a real man will do anything to protect and spend time with his family.

## Synopsis

Lara Brennan is arrested for murdering her boss after a heated argument. She was seen leaving the scene of the crime and her fingerprints were on the murder weapon. Her husband, John, spends the next few years trying to get her released. But with no evidence that can exonerate her and the strain of being separated from her family growing, John decides to break her out.



## Scene 1

(The Brennan couple is joined for dinner by Erit.)

**Erit (E):** I just know that women should never work for women.

**Lara Brennan (L):** How can you say that?

**E:** Because they're always threatened, especially if you're beautiful and they're not.

**L:** Fine. You never had a fight with your boss.

**E:** Never. You know why? Because he is a man

**L:** Can we please **drop (1)** this. I just want to go home and kiss my son, honey.

**E:** See, you have to mention that you have a child, and we have not. There's my point.

**L:** Er, Erit, I didn't say anything of the sort.

**E:** Don't apologize, it's genetic. Women are always competing with each other. That's why you have problems with your boss.

**L:** Because she is a woman ...

**E:** Exactly. Women should work under men, men under women. That's it.

**John (J):** What about men under men?

**E:** That's fine, too. I mean they can deal with that.



## Scene 2

(John visits Lara in prison.)

**L:** How was your first day?

**J:** Excellent. Half the class stayed awake, you know. I talked to your mom.

**L:** When is she coming?

**J:** She's having a lot of trouble with her business. So ...

**L:** Well, it's only been a couple of years, I'm sure she'll **get around to (2)** it. Have you heard anything?

**J:** About the appeal? Yes, and I've decided not to tell you. Remember what Meyer said?

**L:** Don't.

**J:** It can take months for the court to make a ruling.

**L:** I saw that woman. She was there. She couldn't have just disappeared.

**J:** Meyer's looking for a new investigator.

**L:** Her coat snagged my purse, I felt a button pop, and they're blinded if they can't find it.

**J:** He'll go through all the evidence again.

**L:** That's great, because we're not quite bankrupted yet.

**J:** We're doing fine.

**L:** How you just lie and lie. But you are so handsome. Can you do me a favor?

**J:** I don't know, I'm kind of busy.

**L:** I need you to **run for (3)** governor.

**J:** Oh, I can do that.

**L:** You can change this rule about no conjugal visits, because I don't think I can last another 20 years.

## Scene 3

(John meets Damon, who escaped from jail seven times, at a cafe.)

**D:** Where are you from?

**J:** Pittsburgh.

**D:** Pittsburgh's tough; so many bridges and tunnels they can block off. From the time they make the call, the police can have the center of the city sealed tight in 15 minutes

**J:** How can they be so exact?

**D:** After 9-11 Homeland Security made every city have a lock-down plan, downtown Pittsburgh, Philly, Boston, Minneapolis – 15 minutes. They can do DC in under 10. Within 35 minutes they will have cops at every tollbooth on the interstate and be running rolling stops on the secondary roads. They won't have your photograph yet, but they will have your description.

**J:** What if you can't make it out? Thirty-five minutes isn't a lot of time.

**D:** Then surrender. Because they will shoot you on sight, along with anyone else you are with. Stay far away from the train and bus stations. Forget the local airports. Leave from another state. Second: identity. It's easy to find fake papers,

harder to find ones that will get you through an airport. You'll need a passport, driver's license and a social security number. If you have to rent a car, find a place that will take a cash deposit. They'll still run a credit check, so use a real person's name on the ID. Third: destination. You want somewhere that doesn't attract American tourists. Think Yemen, and you get the idea. Then money. You need a truckload of it. Everything's expensive: hotels, travel, information.

**J:** How much?

**D:** Enough to last at least five, six years. Run out of money and you run out of friends. But before you do anything, you have to ask yourself if you can do it. Can you forget about ever seeing your parents again? Can you kill a guard? Leave your kid at a gas station? Push some nice old lady to the ground because she is between you and the door? Because to do this thing, that's who you have to become. And if you can't, don't start, because you'll just get someone killed.

**J:** How did you get caught?

**D:** I **gave myself up (4)**. I couldn't take wondering when someone was going to come through the bedroom door.

## Vocabulary

**1. drop something:** to stop talking about a topic, especially one that is uncomfortable or unpleasant

**2. get around to:** to find time to do something

**3. run for:** to campaign to be elected to a public office

**4. to give oneself up:** to turn oneself in to the police

(By Huang Daohen)